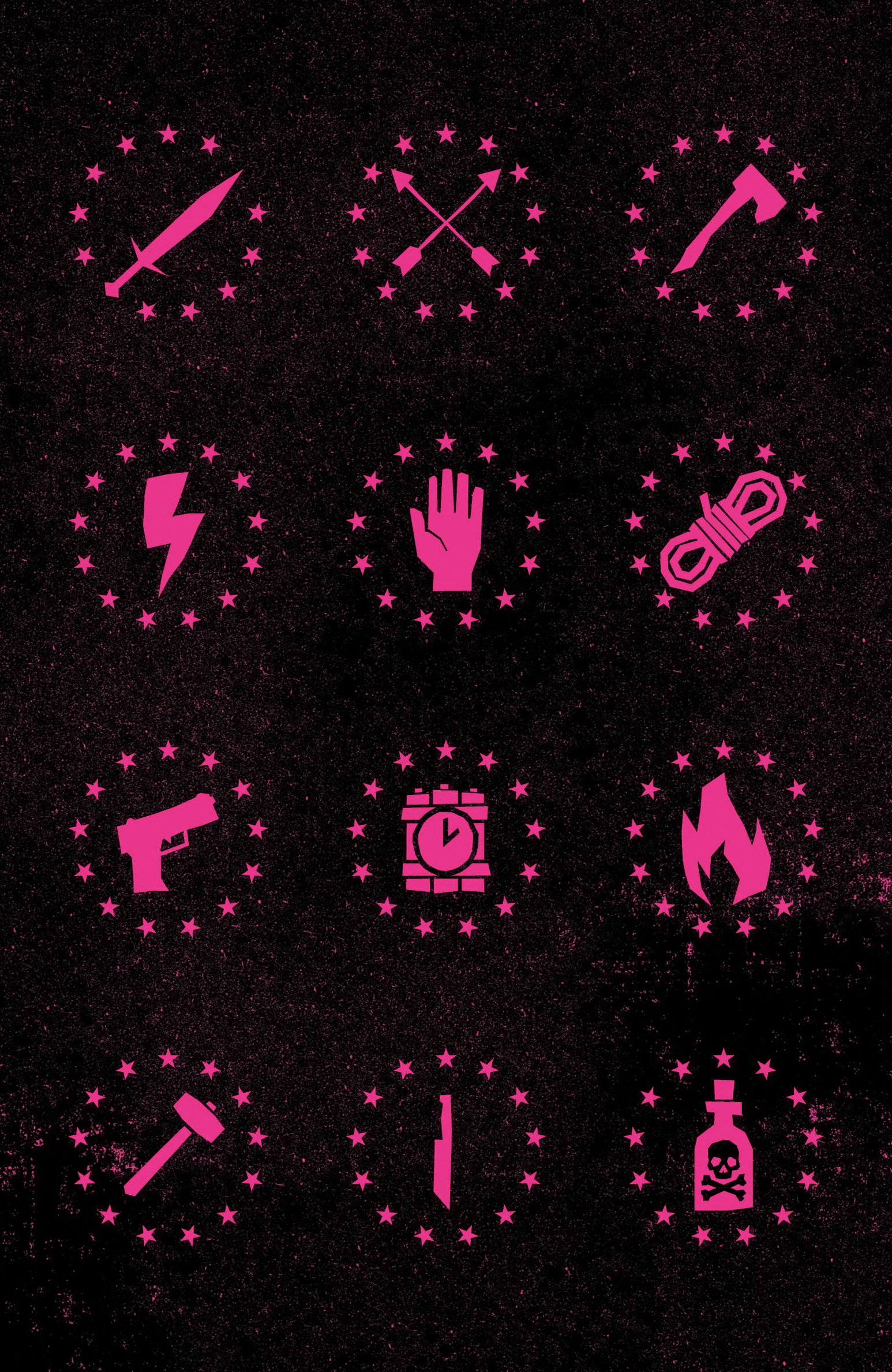
Exquisite Corpses™

VOL. 1

TYNION WALSH PICHETSHOTE
IGNAZZI DE LANDRO BELLAIRE CAREY



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VOLUME ONE

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CHAPTER ONE

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CHAPTER TWO

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CHAPTER THREE

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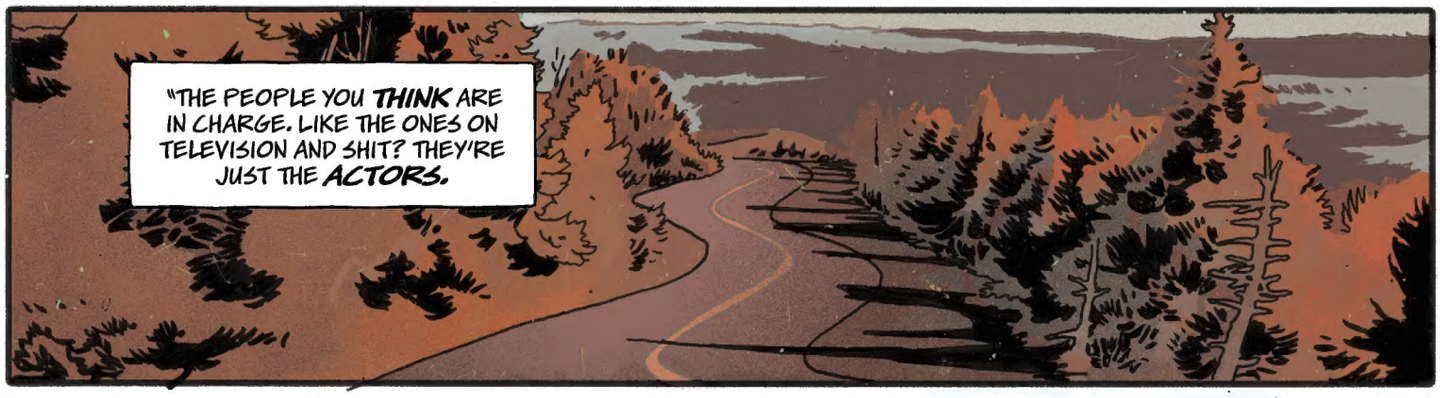
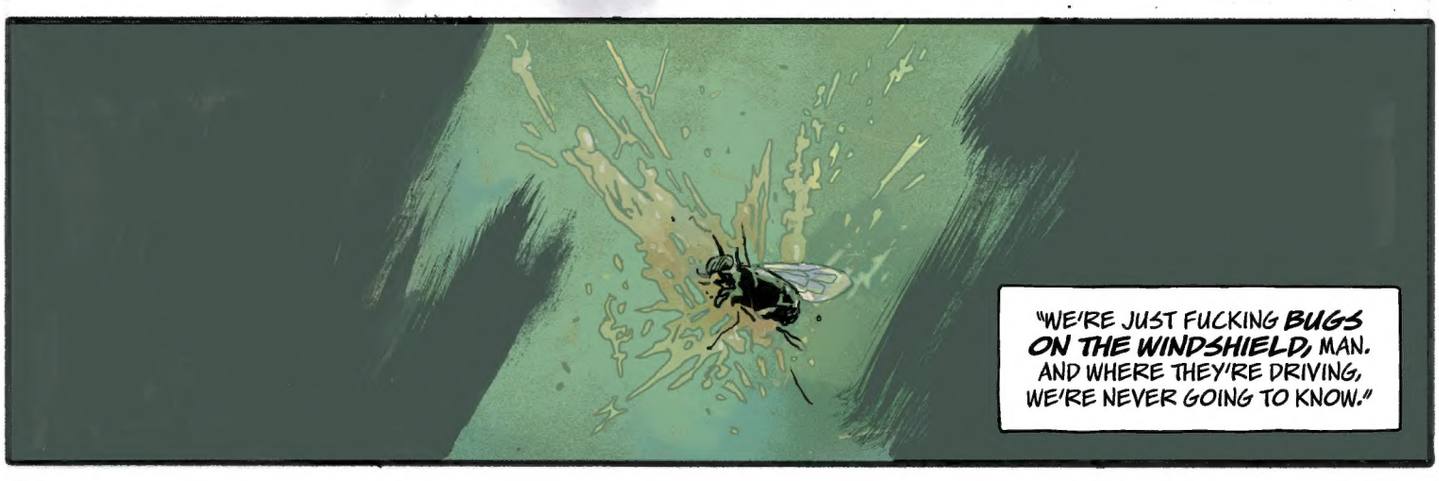
CHAPTER ONE

"YOU WANNA KNOW ABOUT THE FUCKING WORLD, MAN? I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE FUCKING WORLD.
WELCOME TO OAK VALLEY


"THE PEOPLE YOU THINK ARE IN CHARGE. LIKE THE ONES ON TELEVISION AND SHIT? THEY'RE JUST THE ACTORS.

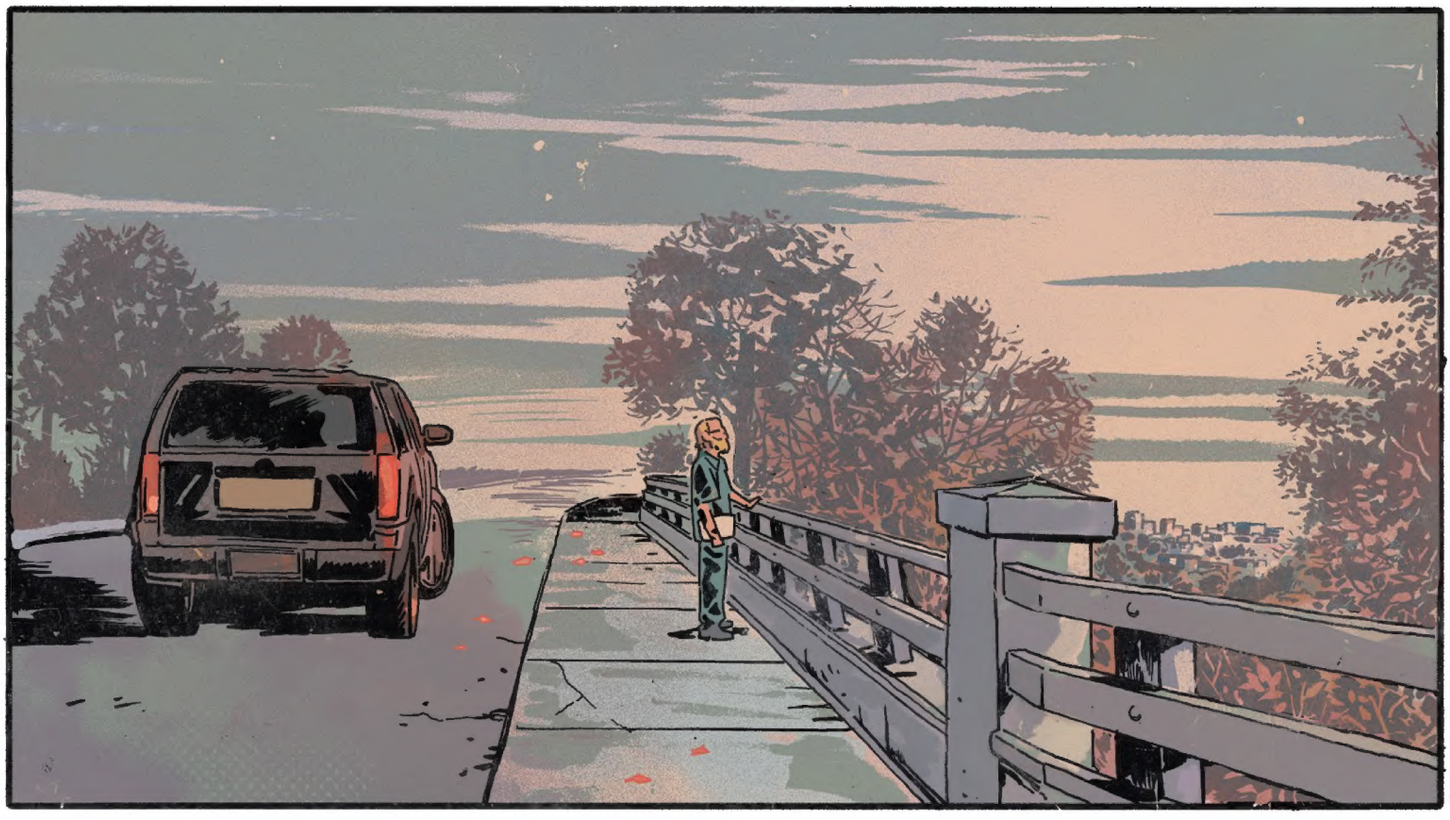
25 M.P.H.
Haunted House
DON'T DARE GO ALONE!
666 Main St South.
"THEY'RE THE SMOKE SCREEN, MAN. FUCKING ENTERTAINMENT TO KEEP US THINKING THAT WE HAVE A SAY IN THINGS. IT'S ALL A LOT MORE FUCKED UP THAN THAT.

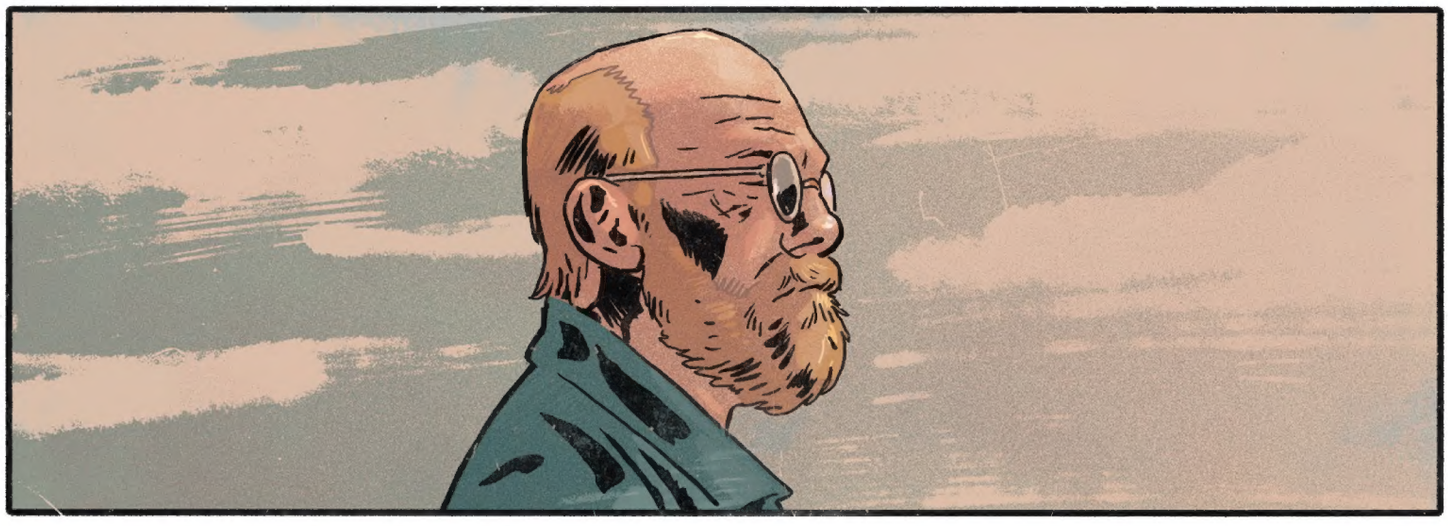
"AND, LIKE, DEEP DOWN I THINK WE ALL KNOW THAT. I THINK WE KNOW THAT WE DON'T FUCKING MATTER TO THOSE PEOPLE.
PUMP KING

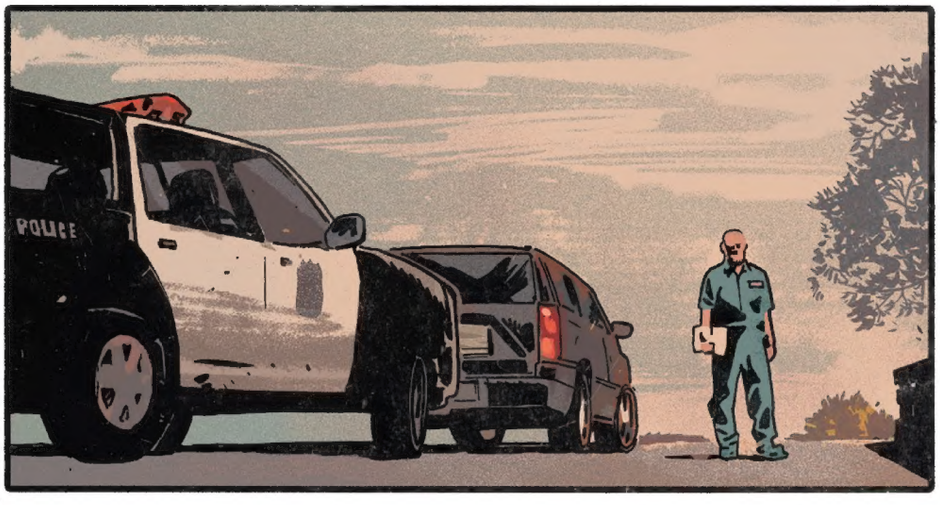

"WE'RE JUST FUCKING BUGS ON THE WINDSHIELD, MAN. AND WHERE THEY'RE DRIVING, WE'RE NEVER GOING TO KNOW."

WHERE'D YOU LEARN ALL THIS FUN STUFF ABOUT THE WORLD, MIKE?
THERE'S, LIKE, THESE PODCASTS, MAN. THEY DON'T EVEN LET THEM AIR ON SPOTIFY OR WHATEVER.
YOU GOTTA FIND THEM ON THEIR OWN WEBSITES AND SHIT. I'LL GIVE YOU SOME LINKS AND THEY'LL BLOW YOUR MIND.
ICE COLD
BZZZ
SEEMS A LITTLE SCARY TO ME.
IT'S HALLOWEEN, MAN. YOU GOTTA EMBRACE THE FEAR.
Big Bruce
Declined
MHM. YOU GOING TO BE EMBRACING THE FEAR DOWN AT THE PIT TONIGHT?
AW, C'MON, CHIEF. YOU KNOW I'M NOT--LIKE, THAT'S WHERE THE KIDS HANG.
JUST DO ME A FAVOR AND MAKE SURE YOU'RE STICKING TO THE WEAK STUFF. THEY DON'T KNOW BETTER, AND THEY'RE GOING TO DRIVE HOME AFTER.
Please Have ID Ready
FUCK, MAN, THEY ALL GOT COUSINS AND SHIT THAT BRING THE GOOD STUFF FROM THE DISPENSARIES IN PORTLAND. TRYING TO DRIVE ME OUT OF BUSINESS.
NOT THAT I DO THAT SHIT ANYMORE. I'M CLEAN, BROTHER. YOU CAN SHAKE ME DOWN IF YOU WANT. I DON'T EVEN THINK I'VE GOT A JOINT ON ME.
JUST BE SMART, MIKE. OKAY?
LOOK. DOES LAURA STILL DROP IN FOR A SLUSHIE WHEN SHE STARTS HER SHIFT?

WHO'S ASKING?
I'M ASKING.
RIGHT. UM...YEAH, MAN. SHE LOVES THOSE SLUSHIES. PROBABLY UNPLUG THE THING IF SHE WASN'T GETTING THEM.
WHEN SHE COMES BY, GIVE HER THIS, WILL YOU?
UH...
LAURA
DO IT OR I'LL HAVE A PATROL CAR SITTING BY THE TRAIL TO THE PIT ALL NIGHT LONG. AND THEY'LL BE CHECKING BAGS.
BROTHER, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
GOODBYE, MIKE.
HAPPY HALLOWEEN, CHIEF.






POLICE

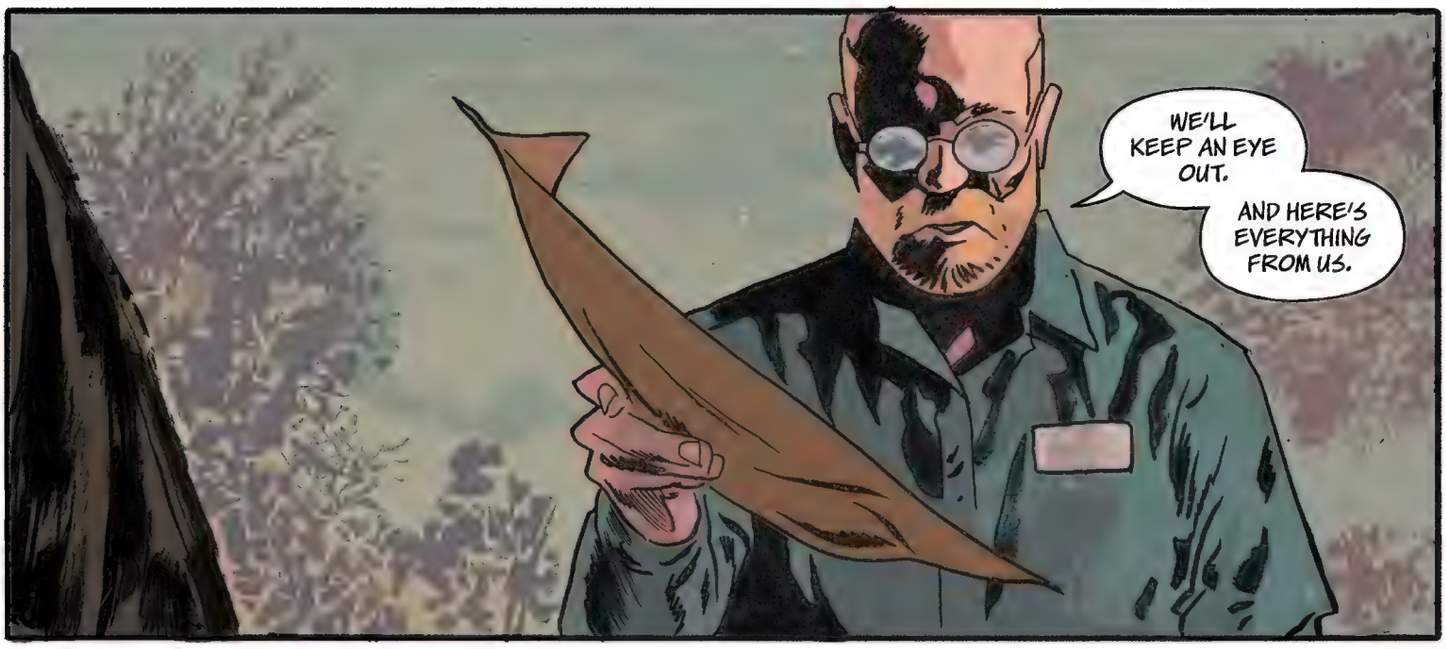
I THINK I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED. JUST A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT WOULDN'T REPLACE EASY. THIS MINE?
SURE IS.

IT'S NICE.
YEAH.

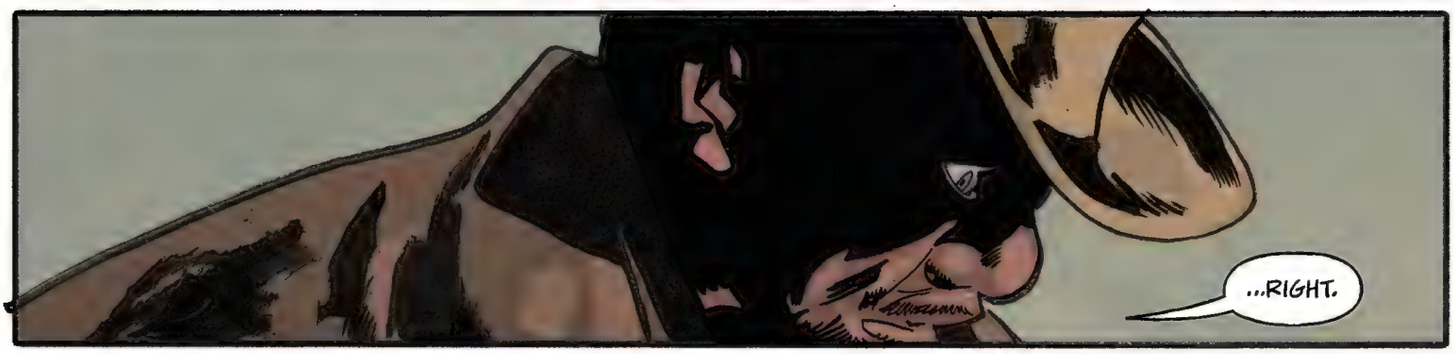
HERE'S THE KEYS TO THE CRUISER. THERE'S A FEW OTHERS ON THE RING. BLUE IS THE FRONT DOOR TO THE STATION. THE BIG ONE GETS INTO THE CELLS...
ALREADY HAD A SET MADE UP. BUT APPRECIATED NONETHELESS.

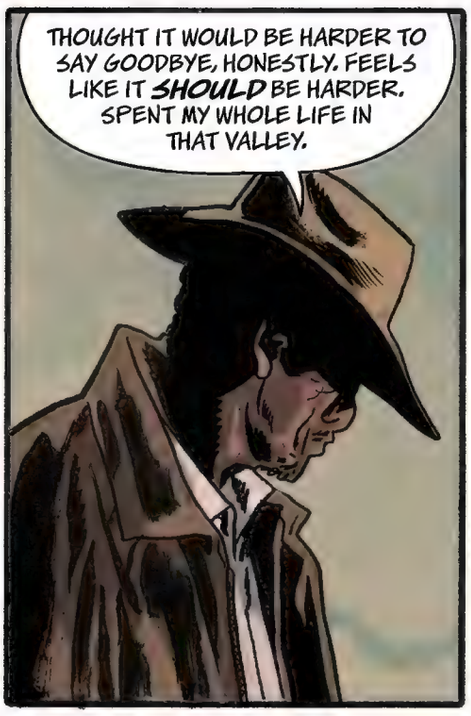
I'M GOING TO WARN YOU ONE LAST TIME ABOUT BIG BRUCE. HE THINKS HE RUNS THIS TOWN, AND THINKS I WORK FOR HIM.
HAD SIX CALLS FROM HIM THIS MORNING ALONE. I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU, NOT HEARING HIS VOICE IS THE SINGLE THING I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO.

ALSO DON'T KNOW IF I MENTIONED THIS BEFORE.
EVERY HALLOWEEN NIGHT, THE HIGH SCHOOL KIDS THROW A RAGER IN THIS NATURAL CLEARING OFF THE ROUTE 17 HIKING TRAIL.
GETS A LITTLE WILD, BUT NEVER SO WILD THAT WE NEED TO GO IN BUSTING HEADS. USED TO GO THERE MYSELF IN HIGH SCHOOL. IT'S TRADITION.


WE'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT.
AND HERE'S EVERYTHING FROM US.

YOUR NEW IDENTITY. PASSPORT. BIRTH CERTIFICATE. SOCIAL SECURITY CARD.
AND ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO ACCESS A BANK ACCOUNT THAT, AS OF THIRTY MINUTES AGO, HAS TEN MILLION DOLLARS SITTING INSIDE.


...RIGHT.

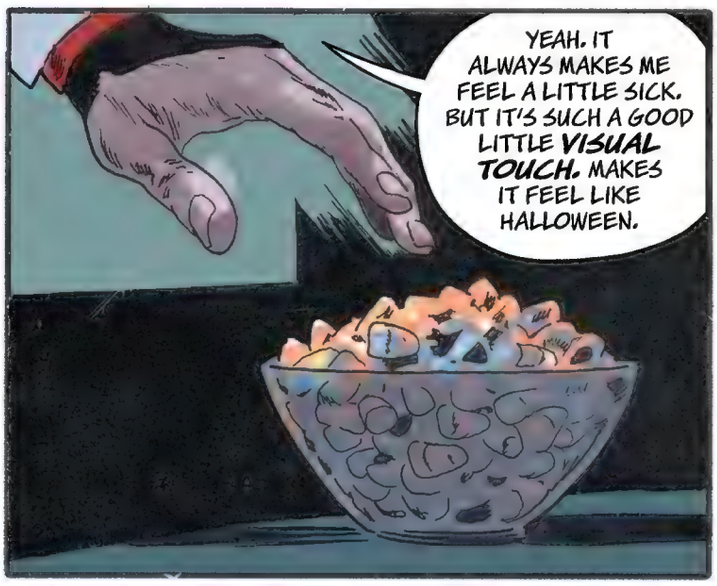

THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HARDER TO SAY GOODBYE, HONESTLY. FEELS LIKE IT SHOULD BE HARDER. SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE IN THAT VALLEY.

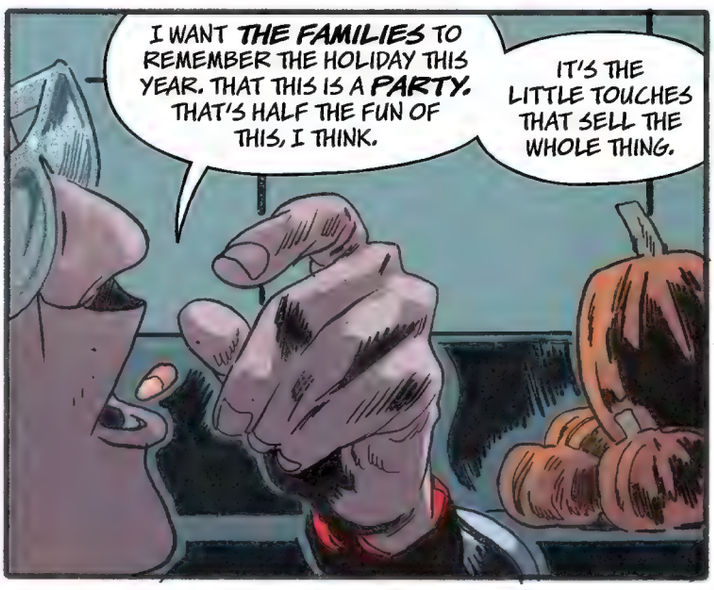
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN DOWN THERE OVER THE NEXT 24 HOURS. WHAT I ALREADY KNOW--
IT'S BEST YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.
BUT IF YOU DO, I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ATTEMPT TO CONTACT ANYBODY IN THAT VALLEY. ANY PART OF YOUR OLD LIFE.
YEAH.
SUPPOSE THAT'S ALL. I'M GOING TO STOP SHORT OF WISHING YOU LUCK AND JUST SAY GOODBYE.
ENJOY YOUR NEW LIFE.

THE HANDOFF IS DONE. TIME TO GET TO WORK, PEOPLE.
13
885

WE HAVE VISUALS IN THE ARENA. HOW'D THE HANDOFF GO?
EASY ENOUGH.

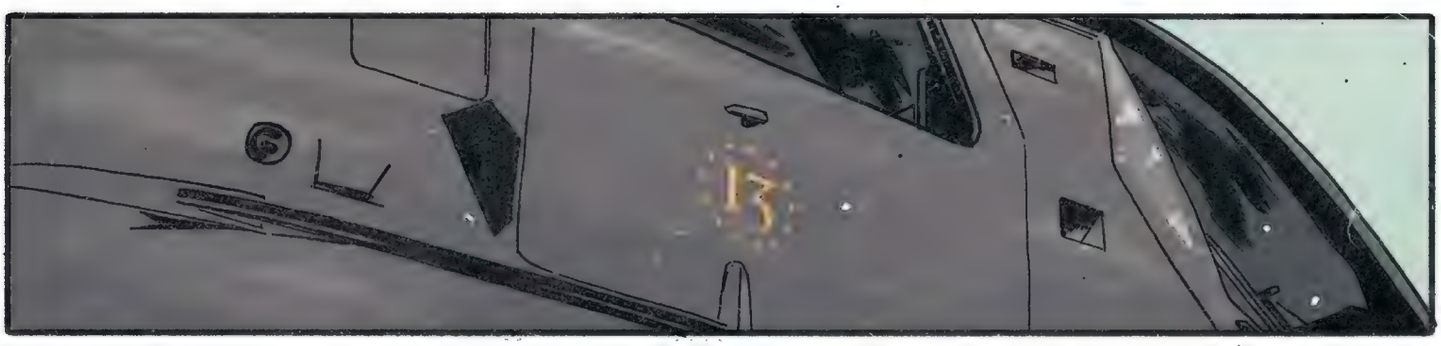
GREAT. THAT'S GREAT. WE'RE GETTING THE WHOLE SHOW READY. I WISH YOU COULD SEE IT. DO YOU LIKE CANDY CORN?
NOBODY LIKES CANDY CORN.

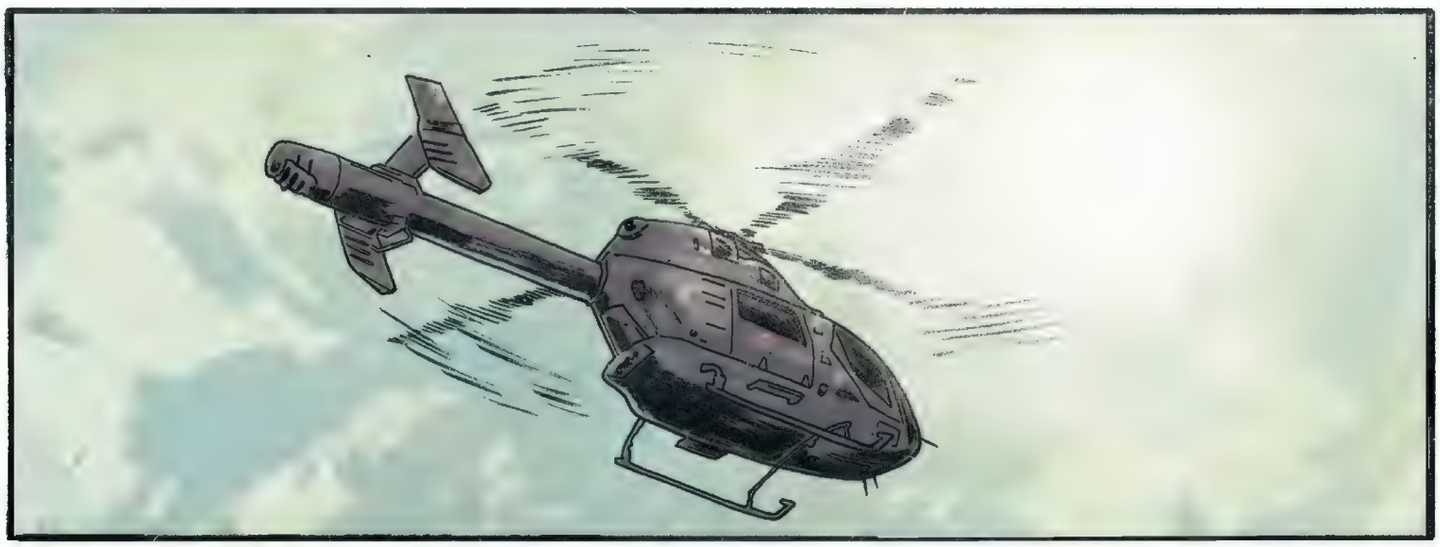

YEAH. IT ALWAYS MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE SICK. BUT IT'S SUCH A GOOD LITTLE VISUAL TOUCH. MAKES IT FEEL LIKE HALLOWEEN.

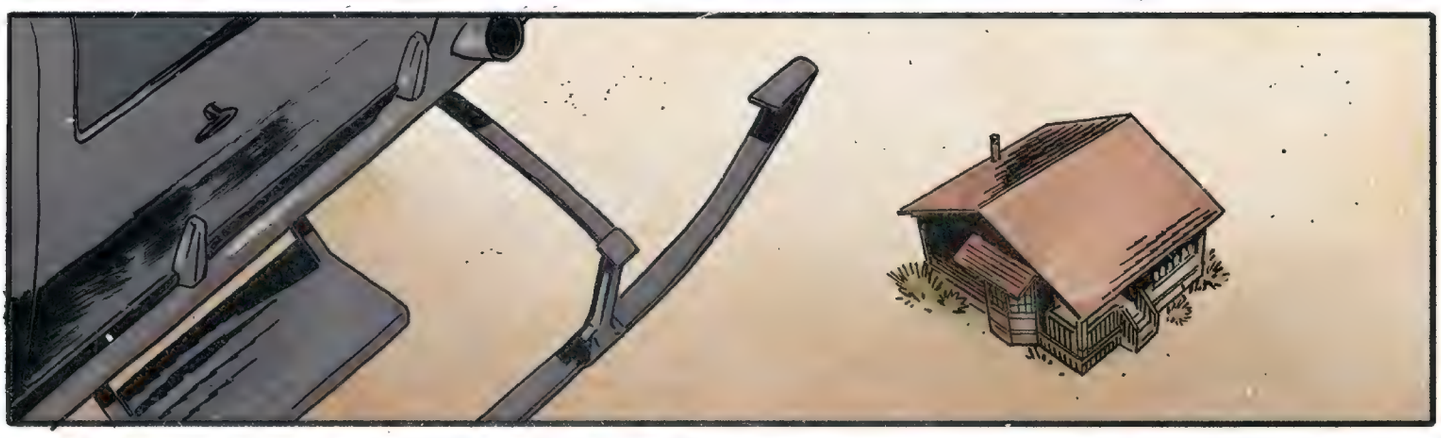

I WANT THE FAMILIES TO REMEMBER THE HOLIDAY THIS YEAR. THAT THIS IS A PARTY. THAT'S HALF THE FUN OF THIS, I THINK.
IT'S THE LITTLE TOUCHES THAT SELL THE WHOLE THING.

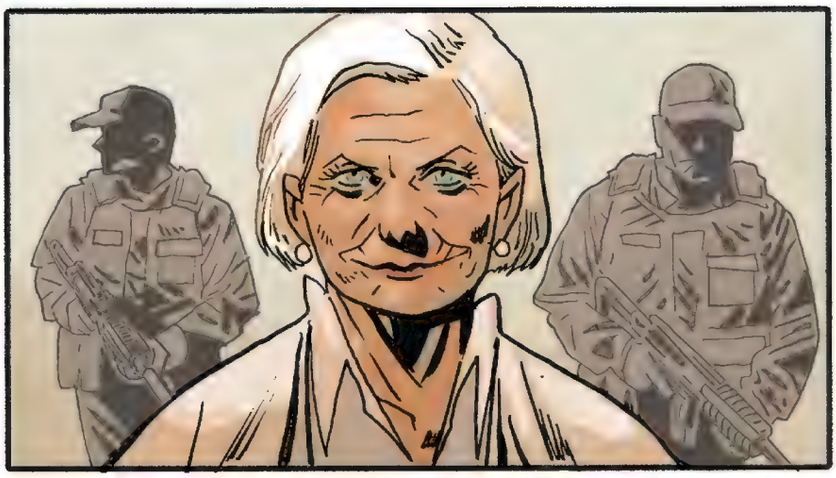
I'M SURE IT'S LOVELY.
PLAYERS WILL START BEING DELIVERED TO THEIR DROP-OFF SPOTS IN ABOUT NINETY MINUTES.

EVERYONE MAKE THEIR CHOICES?
JUST ABOUT.









GUESSING ALL THOSE SLIMY CREATURES BEEN VISITING ME THE LAST SIX MONTHS WORK FOR YOU.

YOU'D BE RIGHT. I HAVE A PEACE OFFERING, IF YOU HAVE GLASSES.

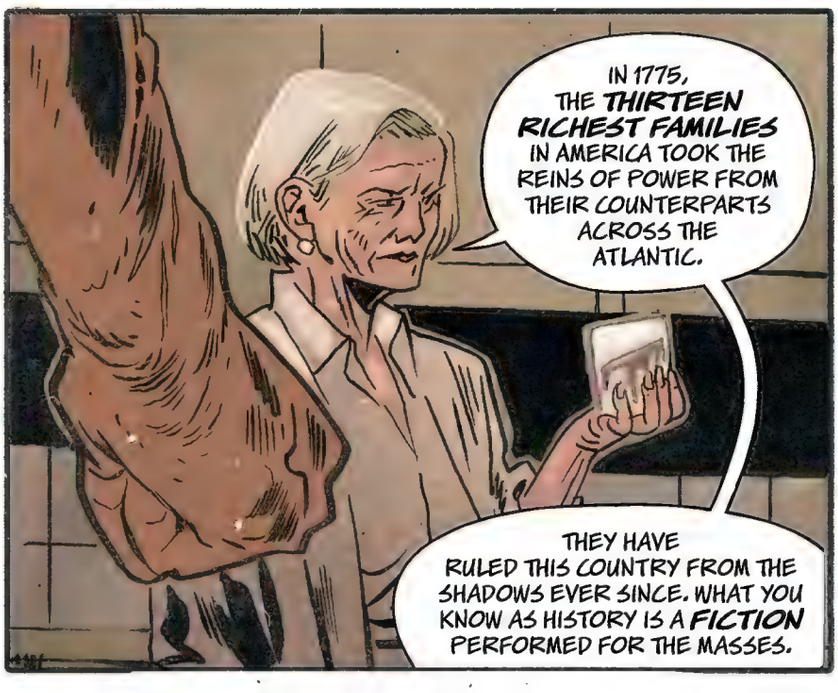
I DON'T DRINK.
WELL, I DO. LET'S GET OUT OF THIS DUST.

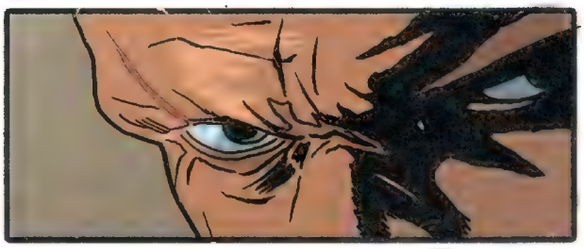
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS MYSELF FROM THE START. APOLOGIES FOR THAT.
MY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TELLING ME TO DELEGATE FOR YEARS, AND I THINK IT'S A CROCK OF SHIT.

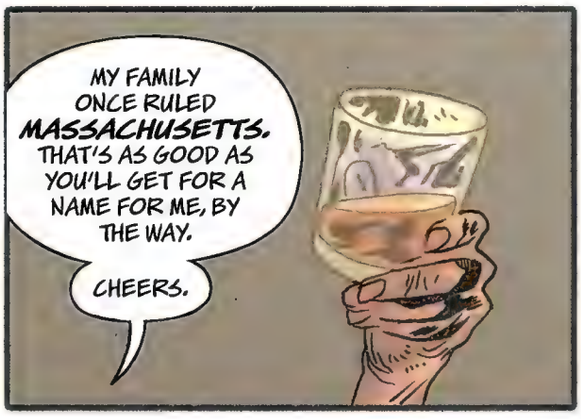
AND AFTER YOU BROKE OUR LAST EMISSARY'S ARM IN SIX PLACES, THEY TOLD ME I SHOULD CHOOSE SOMEONE ELSE.
BUT I GUESS I'M STUBBORN.

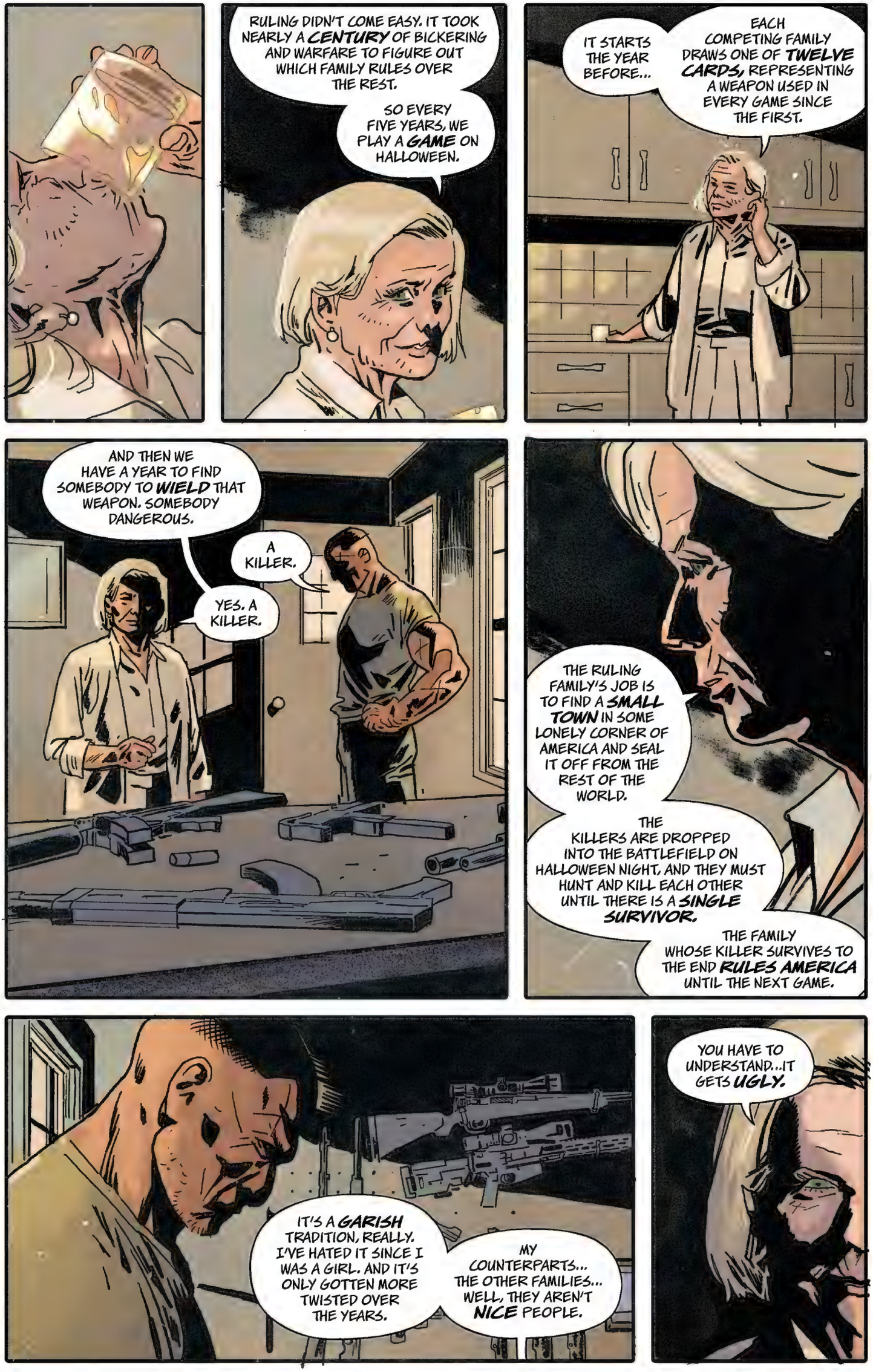
NOT SURE WHAT MORE THERE IS TO SAY, MA'AM.

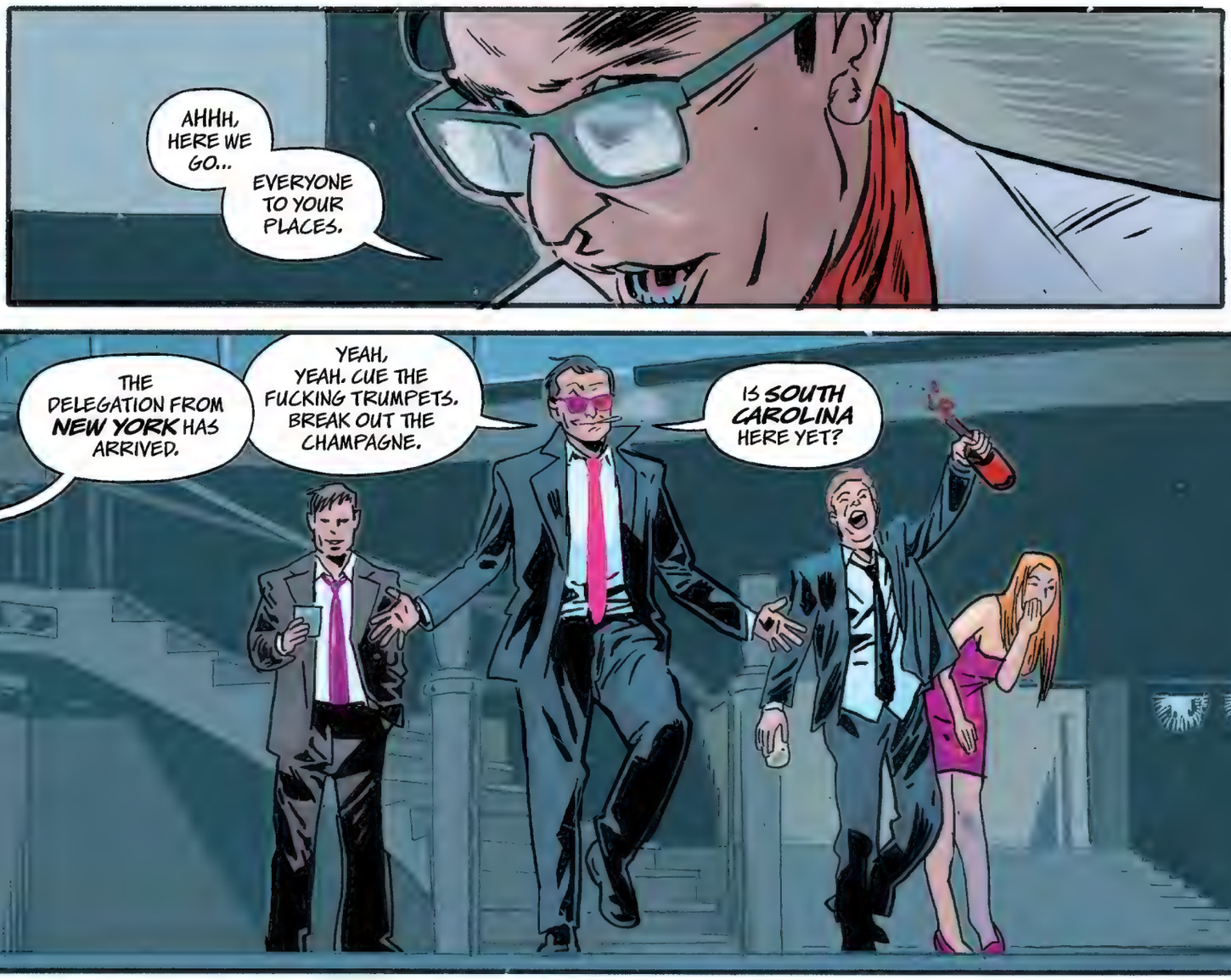
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU A FEW SECRETS ABOUT HOW THE WORLD REALLY WORKS.


IN 1775, THE THIRTEEN RICHEST FAMILIES IN AMERICA TOOK THE REINS OF POWER FROM THEIR COUNTERPARTS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.
THEY HAVE RULED THIS COUNTRY FROM THE SHADOWS EVER SINCE. WHAT YOU KNOW AS HISTORY IS A FICTION PERFORMED FOR THE MASSES.

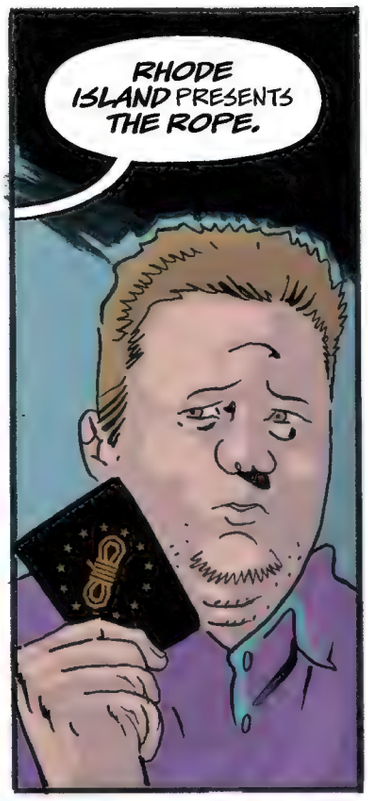


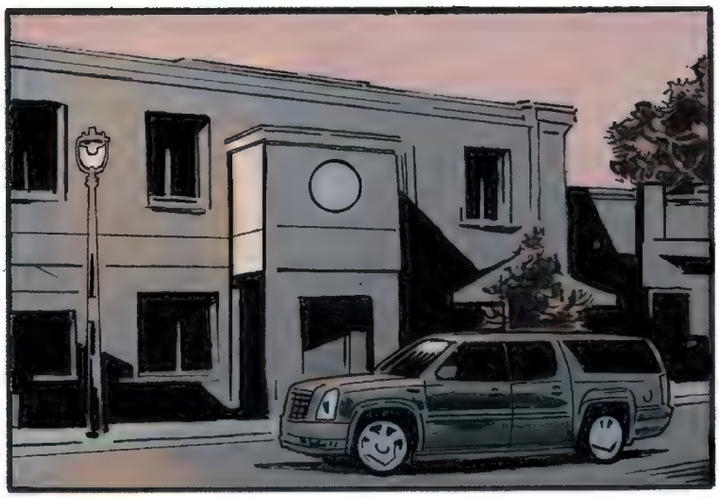

MY FAMILY ONCE RULED MASSACHUSETTS. THAT'S AS GOOD AS YOU'LL GET FOR A NAME FOR ME, BY THE WAY.
CHEERS.

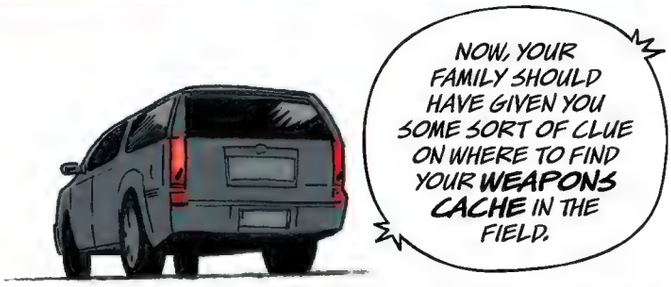

RULING DIDN'T COME EASY. IT TOOK NEARLY A CENTURY OF BICKERING AND WARFARE TO FIGURE OUT WHICH FAMILY RULES OVER THE REST.
SO EVERY FIVE YEARS, WE PLAY A GAME ON HALLOWEEN.
IT STARTS THE YEAR BEFORE...
EACH COMPETING FAMILY DRAWS ONE OF TWELVE CARDS, REPRESENTING A WEAPON USED IN EVERY GAME SINCE THE FIRST.
AND THEN WE HAVE A YEAR TO FIND SOMEBODY TO WIELD THAT WEAPON. SOMEBODY DANGEROUS.
A KILLER.
YES. A KILLER.
THE RULING FAMILY'S JOB IS TO FIND A SMALL TOWN IN SOME LONELY CORNER OF AMERICA AND SEAL IT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.
THE KILLERS ARE DROPPED INTO THE BATTLEFIELD ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, AND THEY MUST HUNT AND KILL EACH OTHER UNTIL THERE IS A SINGLE SURVIVOR.
THE FAMILY WHOSE KILLER SURVIVES TO THE END RULES AMERICA UNTIL THE NEXT GAME.
IT'S A GARISH TRADITION, REALLY. I'VE HATED IT SINCE I WAS A GIRL. AND IT'S ONLY GOTTEN MORE TWISTED OVER THE YEARS.
MY COUNTERPARTS... THE OTHER FAMILIES... WELL, THEY AREN'T NICE PEOPLE.
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...IT GETS UGLY.


AHHH, HERE WE GO...
EVERYONE TO YOUR PLACES.
THE DELEGATION FROM NEW YORK HAS ARRIVED.
YEAH, YEAH. CUE THE FUCKING TRUMPETS. BREAK OUT THE CHAMPAGNE.
IS SOUTH CAROLINA HERE YET?
YOU'RE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE, BUT IF YOU PRESENT YOUR--
FUCK OFF. I'M NOT TURNING MY CARD IN UNTIL I CAN SEE THEIR SHITTY LITTLE WEASEL FACES.
YOU. WHY THE FUCK DON'T I HAVE A GLASS IN MY HAND ALREADY? YOU THINK THIS IS FUCKING CHURCH OR SOMETHING?
I THINK... UH...I THINK I'M UP, THEN.
YES.
SORRY... MY MOM SAID IT SHOULD BE ME THIS YEAR. THAT I NEED TO LEARN HOW THE FAMILY WORKS. BUT...I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW IT GOES.

YOUR CARD, PLEASE.
OH. OKAY.


RHODE ISLAND PRESENTS THE ROPE.




NOW, YOUR FAMILY SHOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU SOME SORT OF CLUE ON WHERE TO FIND YOUR WEAPONS CACHE IN THE FIELD.

YOU CAN START LOOKING FOR IT AT DROP-OFF, BUT YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO HARM ANYONE UNTIL SUNSET.

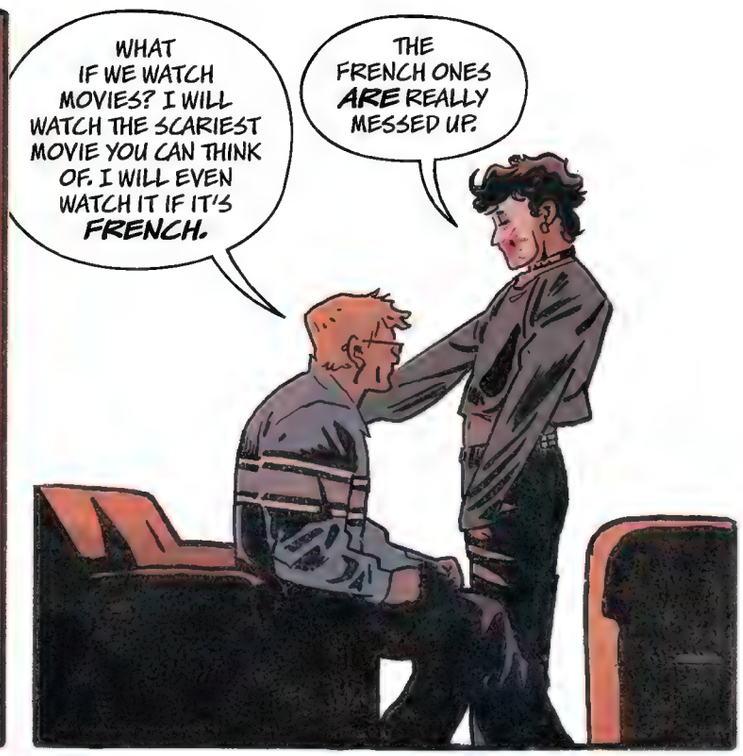
AND WHAT IF I DON'T PLAY ALONG?
YOU FORFEIT THE GAME, AND YOUR LIFE.

RECLUSE

WE UP, THEN?
YOU ARE.
FUCK YOU, FUCKER.
WANTED US A BIG STRONG MAN. AND WE SURE FOUND HIM. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DADDY?
NORTH CAROLINA PRESENTS THE HAMMER.
APPROPRIATE.
WHAT'S THAT NOW?
THE DECORATIONS. A CELEBRATION OF DEATH. IT'S FITTING, ISN'T IT?
SUPPOSE SO.
YES. VERY FITTING.
LEOPOLD STRONG

YOU HAVE TO TELL ME IF I LOOK SCARY.
YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK SCARY, XAVI.
DON'T JUST TELL ME, CRAIG. YOU HAVE TO LOOK. BUT NOT UNTIL I'M DONE. I'M STILL TRYING TO GET IT RIGHT.
OKAY.
I WISH I WAS WORKING A REAL HAUNT IN A REAL CITY WHERE THEY HAVE REAL MAKEUP ARTISTS WHO KNOW HOW TO MESS AROUND WITH FAKE BLOOD.
EVERYONE LOOKS SO CORNY, AND I JUST WANT IT TO BE SPECIAL. I WANT TO DO SOMETHING PEOPLE REMEMBER.
IT SUCKS I'M WORKING TOO LATE TO MAKE THE NOLIFE SHOW AT THE HALL, BUT JONNY TEXTED ME THAT EVERYONE'S GOING TO THE PIT AFTER. THE BAND MIGHT EVEN PLAY A LATE SET.
XAVI, NO...WE TALKED ABOUT THE PIT.
IT'S HALLOWEEN. WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR HALLOWEEN.

I HAVE A TEST ON MONDAY.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET, LIKE, A SECRET GRADE THAT'S SOMEHOW MORE THAN AN A. SOME SECRET LETTER THAT ONLY THE SMARTEST KIDS IN HIGH SCHOOL KNOW ABOUT.


WHAT IF WE WATCH MOVIES? I WILL WATCH THE SCARIEST MOVIE YOU CAN THINK OF. I WILL EVEN WATCH IT IF IT'S FRENCH.
THE FRENCH ONES ARE REALLY MESSED UP.

SEE, I CAN BE A NICE HALLOWEEN BOY.

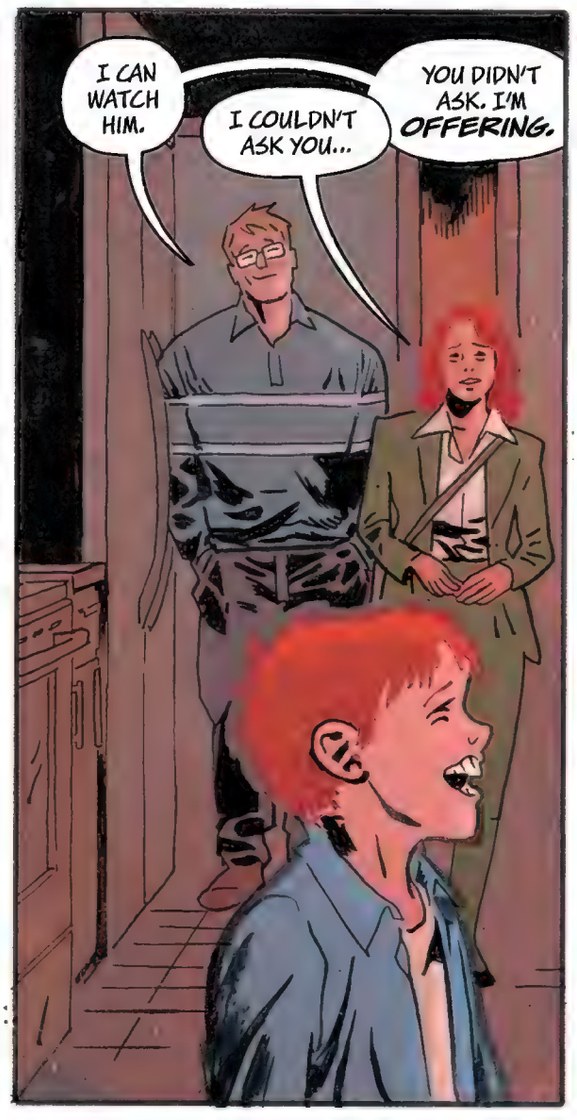
I'M STILL GOING TO MAKE YOU WATCH MOVIES ALL WEEKEND WHILE YOUR MOM'S AT YOUR AUNT'S. BUT WE'RE GOING TO THE PIT.
XAVI, YOU HATE PARTIES.
BUT I LOVE HALLOWEEN. AND I PROMISED JONNY WE'D BE THERE. CAN YOU COME JUST FOR ME? EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR A LITTLE BIT?

OKAY.
YEAH?
YEAH.

GROSS.
I'M SO SORRY, BOYS, HE SHOULDN'T JUST BARGE IN LIKE THAT.
IT'S OKAY, MRS. MCINERNEY.
JASON JUST DIDN'T KNOW THAT HIS NEIGHBOR WAS KISSING A ZOMBIE.
AHHHH!
OKAY, YEAH. I'M SCARY. BUT MY SCRAPES AREN'T HALF AS GOOD AS YOURS.
I JUMPED OFF THE ROOF!
AWESOME.
PLEASE DON'T ENCOURAGE HIM. IF HE'D BROKEN HIS LEG I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO.
CRAIG. I'M JUST LOOKING FOR YOUR MOM.
SHE'S AT MY AUNT'S ALL WEEKEND.
SHIT.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THEY NEED ME DOWN AT THE LOT. I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE AFTERNOON OFF, BUT BIG BRUCE IS HAVING ONE OF HIS DAYS...

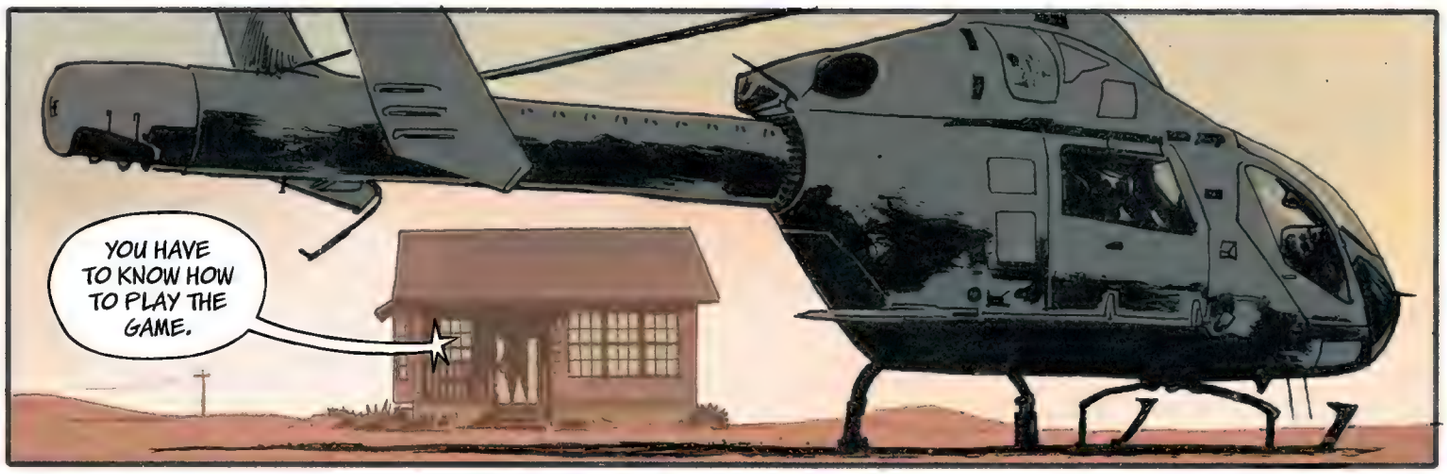
I WAS HOPING BETTY COULD WATCH HIM A COUPLE OF HOURS. I'LL BE BACK TONIGHT IN TIME FOR TRICK-OR-TREATING...

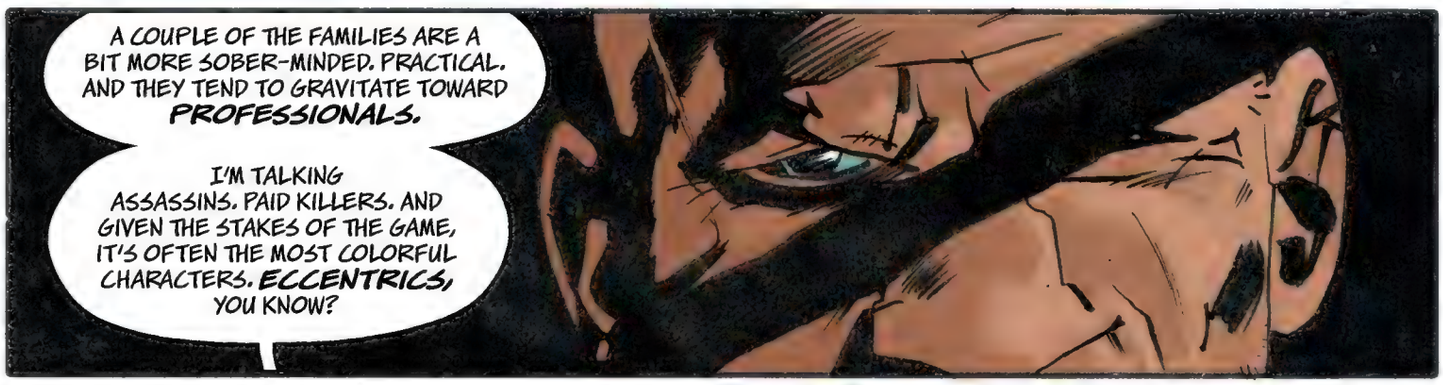

I CAN WATCH HIM.
I COULDN'T ASK YOU...
YOU DIDN'T ASK. I'M OFFERING.

I SWEAR I'LL BE BACK BY FOUR AT THE LATEST.

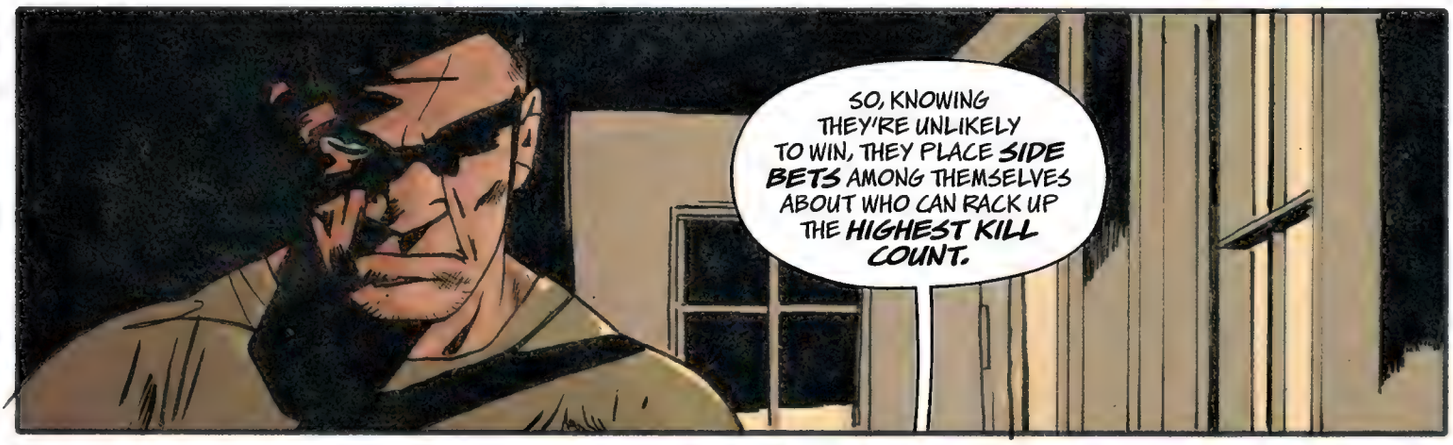
WE'RE GOING TRICK-OR-TREATING ON THE HILL.
HONEY...
WHERE THEY HAVE THE GOOD CANDY.

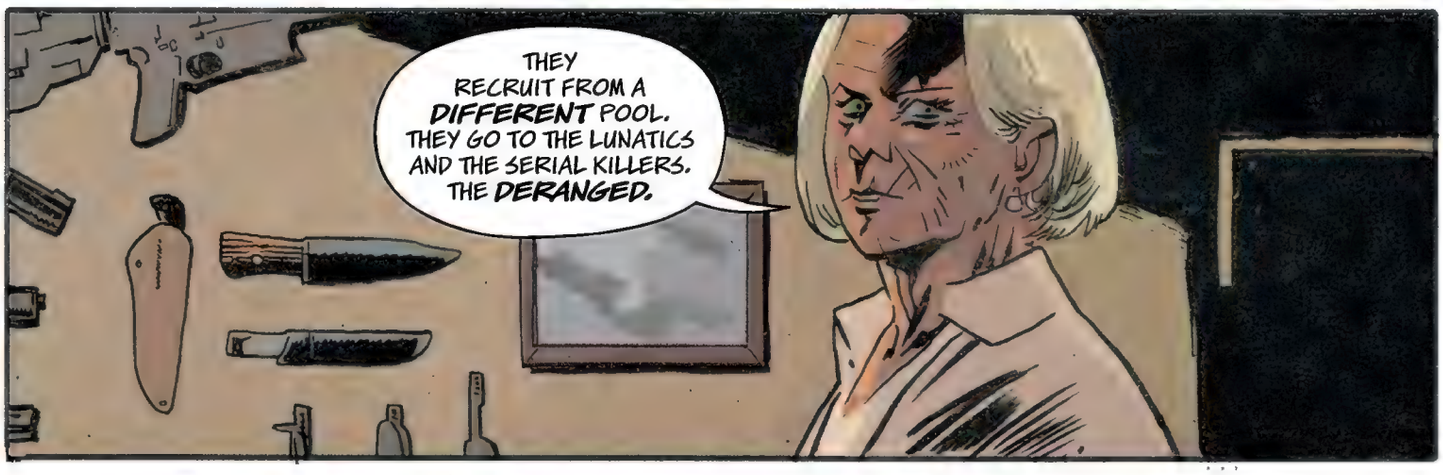
BABY, WE TALKED ABOUT THAT. YOU HAVE TO LIVE UP THERE...
HEY, I LIVE UP THERE.
IF ANYBODY GIVES YOU CRAP, YOU CAN JUST TELL THEM YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH XAVI, AND THEY'LL GIVE YOU THE BEST CANDY.
AND IF THEY DON'T, I'LL EAT THEIR BRAINS.
YOU'RE SAVING MY HIDE HERE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU.


YOU HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO PLAY THE GAME.


A COUPLE OF THE FAMILIES ARE A BIT MORE SOBER-MINDED. PRACTICAL. AND THEY TEND TO GRAVITATE TOWARD PROFESSIONALS.
I'M TALKING ASSASSINS. PAID KILLERS. AND GIVEN THE STAKES OF THE GAME, IT'S OFTEN THE MOST COLORFUL CHARACTERS. ECCENTRICS, YOU KNOW?

THOSE ARE THE FAMILIES WHO WANT TO WIN. WHO WANT THE POWER AND THE RESPONSIBILITY..
...BUT SEVERAL OF THE FAMILIES, THEY'RE CONTENT WITH THE POWER THEY HAVE.


SO, KNOWING THEY'RE UNLIKELY TO WIN, THEY PLACE SIDE BETS AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT WHO CAN RACK UP THE HIGHEST KILL COUNT.


THEY RECRUIT FROM A DIFFERENT POOL. THEY GO TO THE LUNATICS AND THE SERIAL KILLERS. THE DERANGED.

BRO, YOU BEAT US HERE!
I BEAT YOU EVERY DAY OF YOUR GODDAMN LIFE, AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT.

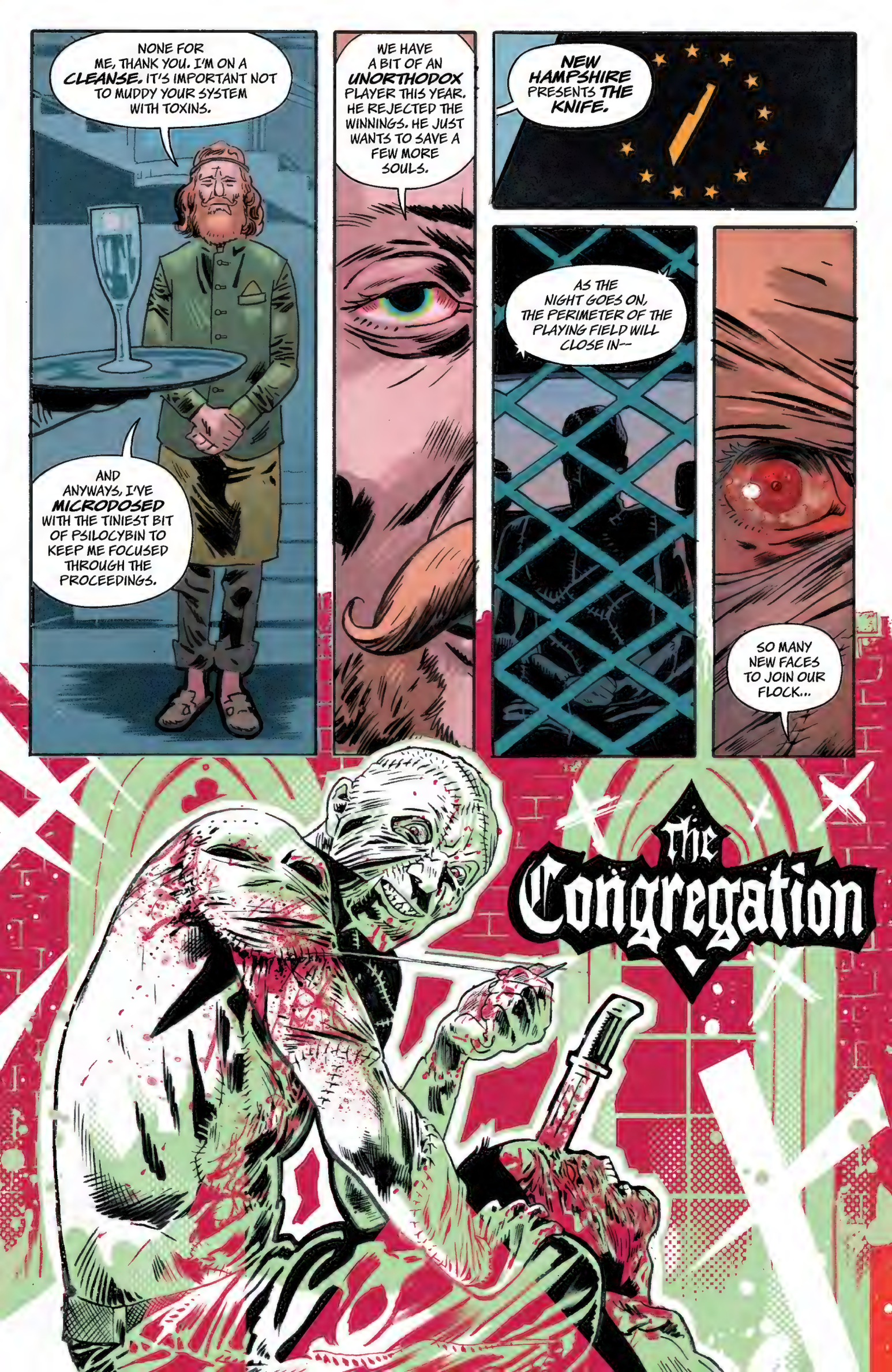
WE'VE GOT A REALLY FUCKED-UP ONE THIS YEAR. THIS GUY PUT ON THIS MASCOT COSTUME AND KILLED NINETEEN PEOPLE LAST YEAR.
YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT COST TO GET HIM OUT OF THE LOONY BIN.

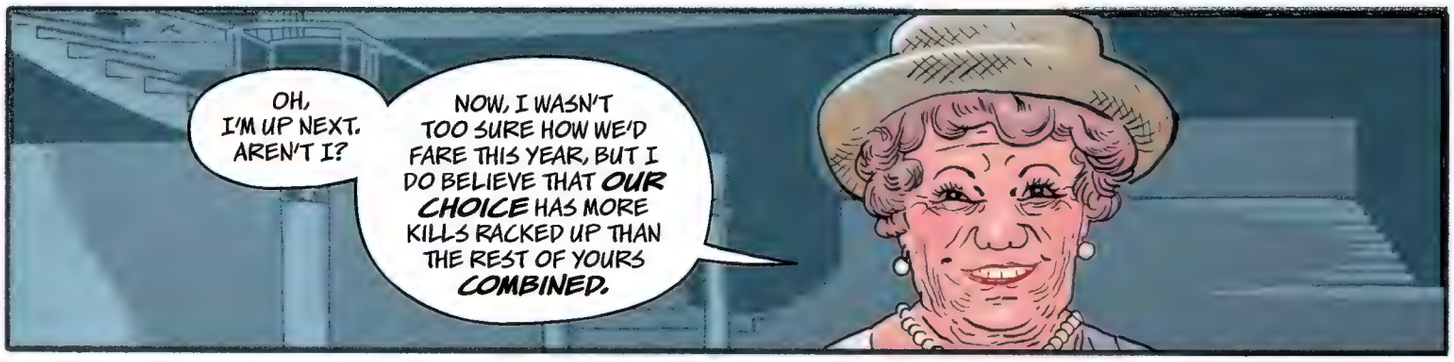
IF YOU'RE READY--
I'M READY FOR RASCAL RANDY TO KILL SOME MOTHER-FUCKERS!! HAH!

NEW JERSEY PRESENTS THE HANDS.

I...I WANT MY SUIT.
YOU'LL FIND IT IN THE CACHE YOUR FAMILY LEFT FOR YOU.
I NEED MY SUIT.

Rascal Randy
R

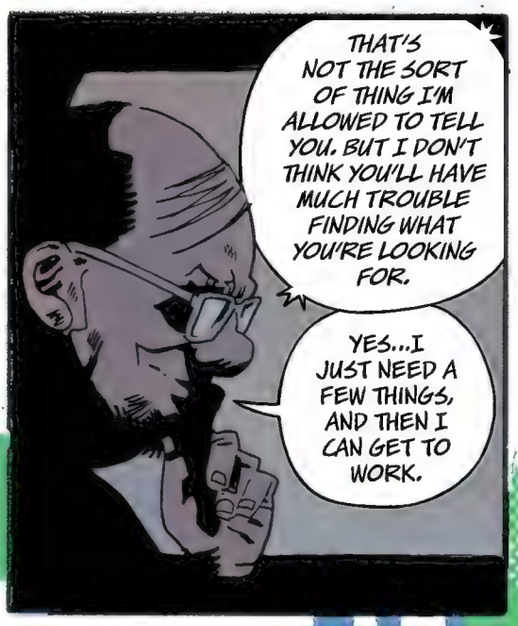

NONE FOR ME, THANK YOU. I'M ON A CLEANSE. IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO MUDDY YOUR SYSTEM WITH TOXINS.
AND ANYWAYS, I'VE MICRODOSED WITH THE TINIEST BIT OF PSILOCYBIN TO KEEP ME FOCUSED THROUGH THE PROCEEDINGS.
WE HAVE A BIT OF AN UNORTHODOX PLAYER THIS YEAR. HE REJECTED THE WINNINGS. HE JUST WANTS TO SAVE A FEW MORE SOULS.
NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESENTS THE KNIFE.
AS THE NIGHT GOES ON, THE PERIMETER OF THE PLAYING FIELD WILL CLOSE IN--
SO MANY NEW FACES TO JOIN OUR FLOCK...
The Congregation

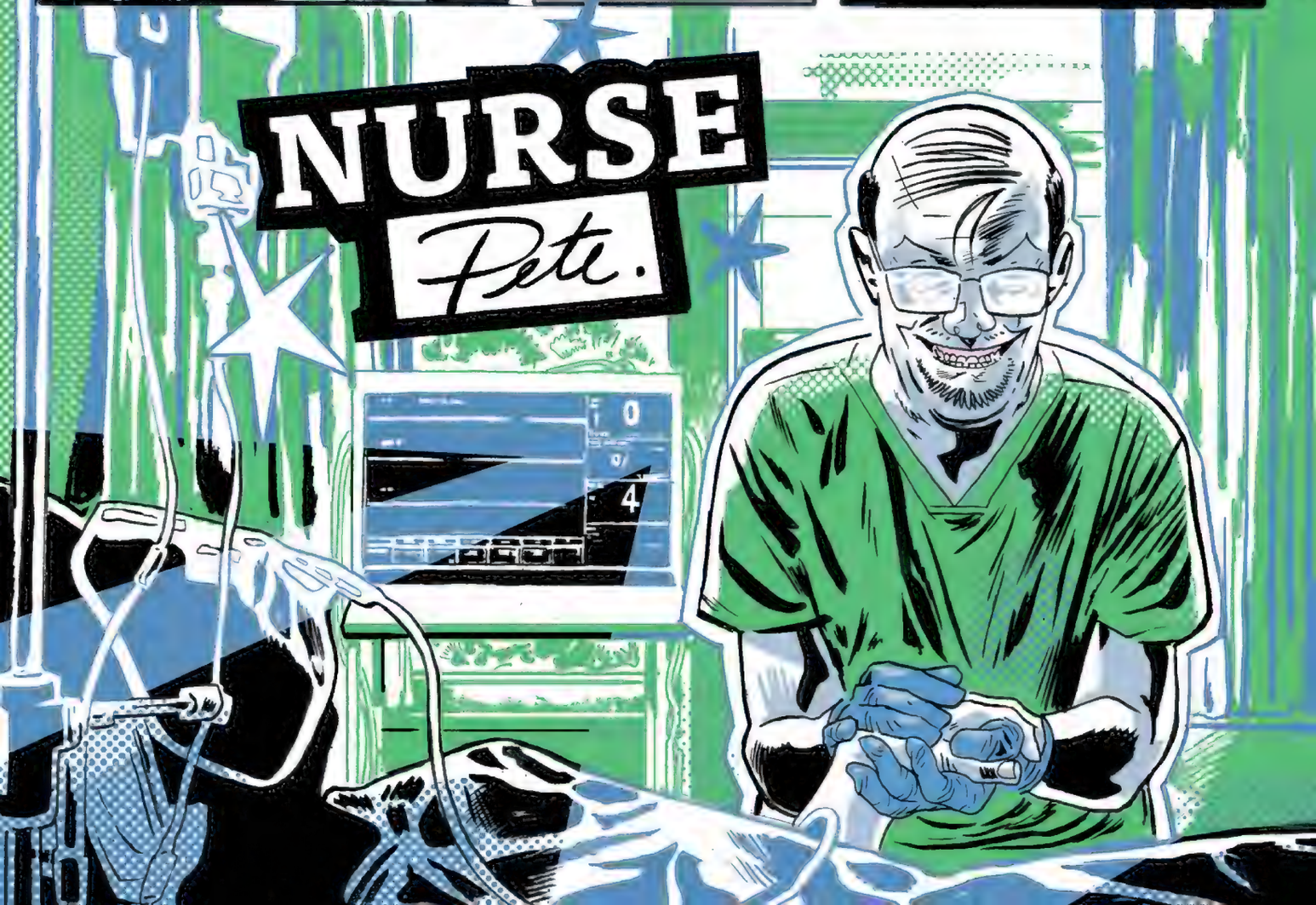

OH, I'M UP NEXT. AREN'T I?
NOW, I WASN'T TOO SURE HOW WE'D FARE THIS YEAR, BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT OUR CHOICE HAS MORE KILLS RACKED UP THAN THE REST OF YOURS COMBINED.

DON'T COUNT OUT THE QUIET ONES. ISN'T THAT WHAT MOTHER ALWAYS SAYS?
NOT THAT I'D KNOW QUIET IF IT BIT ME ON THE ASS.

VIRGINIA PRESENTS POISON.

IS...UH... IS THERE A HOSPITAL HERE IN THE TOWN?


THAT'S NOT THE SORT OF THING I'M ALLOWED TO TELL YOU. BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'LL HAVE MUCH TROUBLE FINDING WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
YES...I JUST NEED A FEW THINGS, AND THEN I CAN GET TO WORK.


NURSE
Pete.

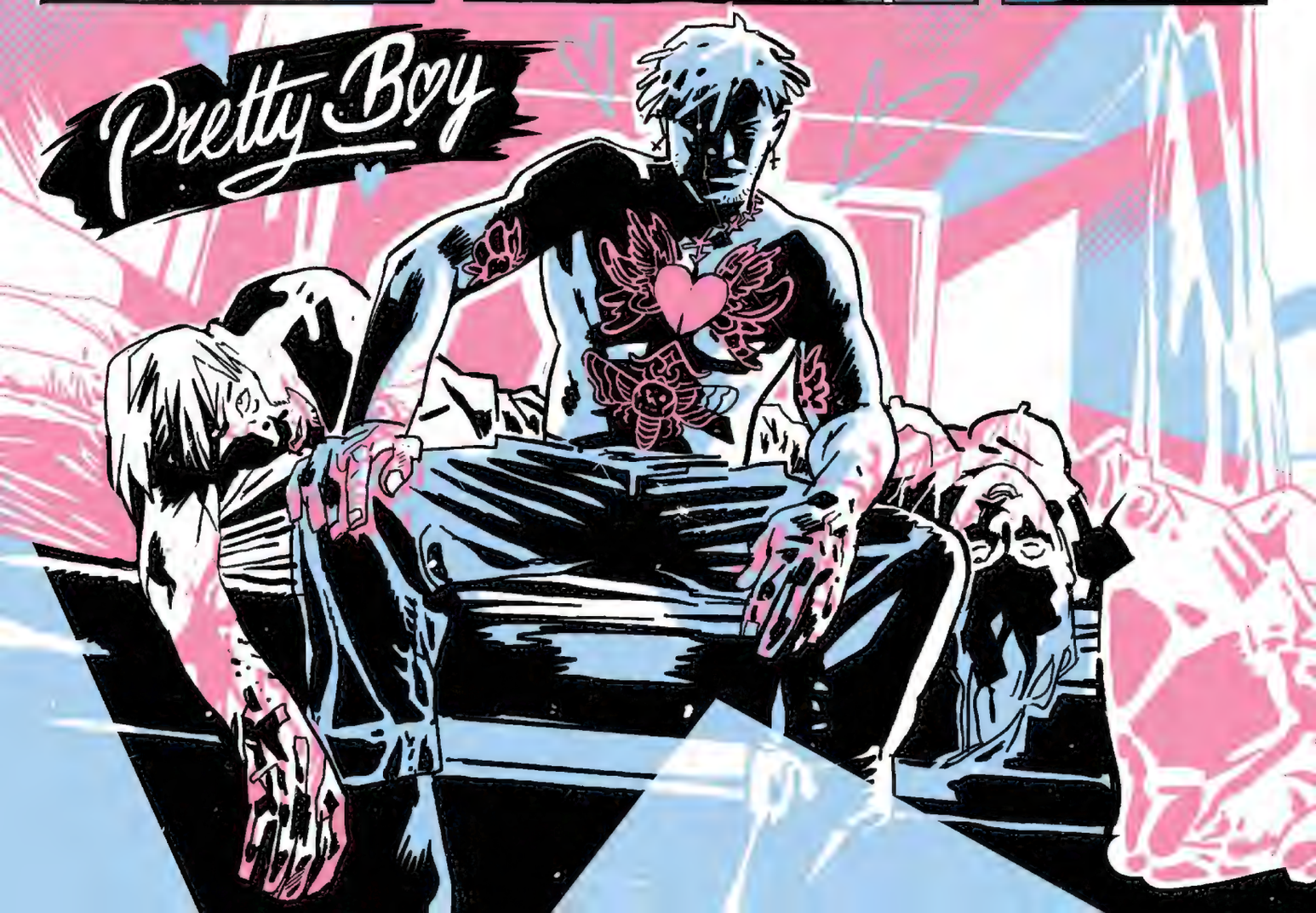
I'LL BE SPEAKING FOR MY FAMILY THIS YEAR, GAMESMASTER.

WE FOUND OURS TWO FULL YEARS BEFORE WE DREW OUR CARD. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE OUR VERY OWN KILLER IN THE TED BUNDY MOLD.
YOU ALL REMEMBER HOW WELL HE DID IN THE GAME.

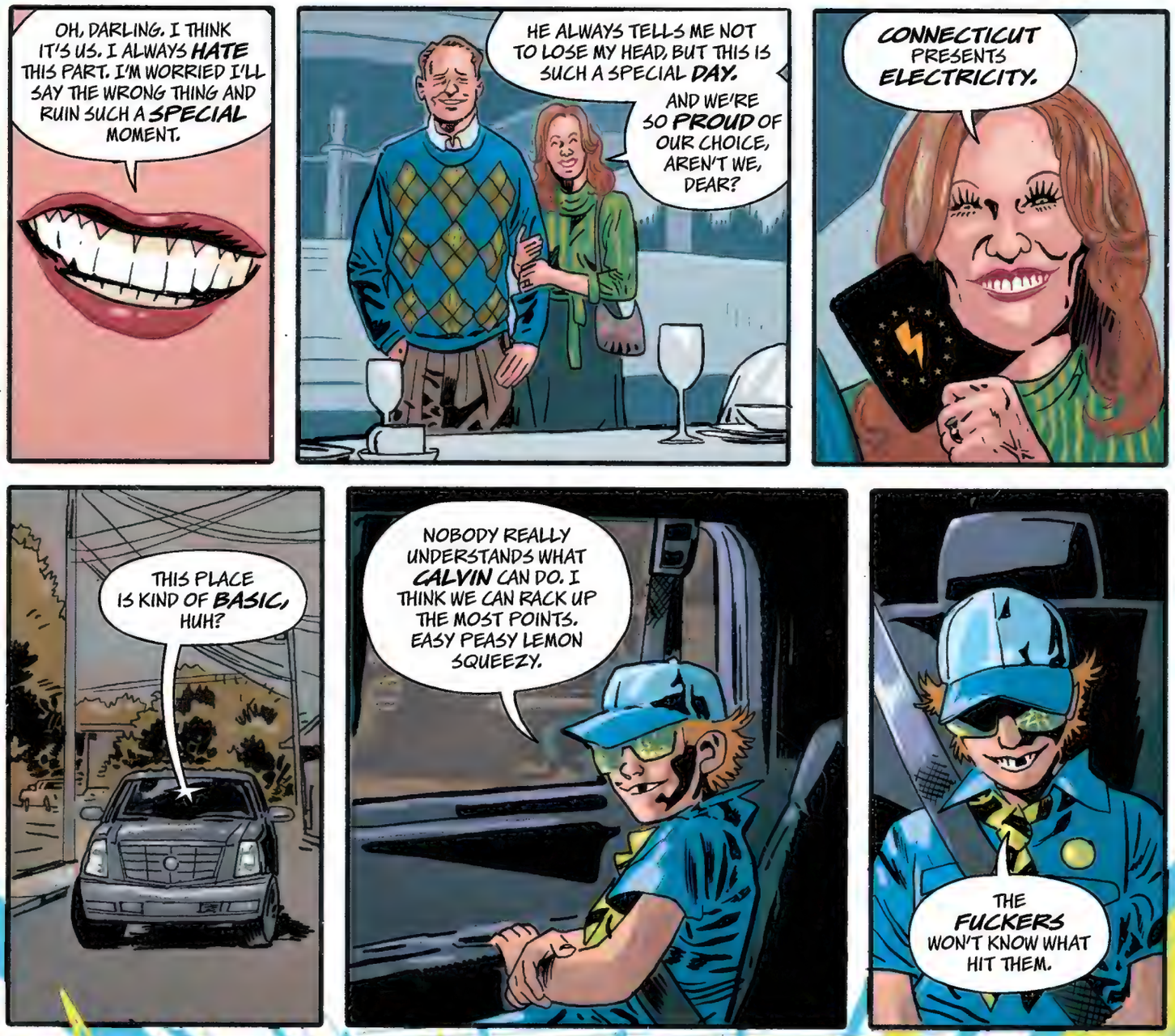
GEORGIA PRESENTS THE AXE.

AND I START WITH NOTHING, RIGHT? JUST THE CLOTHES ON MY BACK.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AXE DON'T REALLY MATTER. CLOTHES, EITHER, IF I'M HONEST.

I CAN MAKE DO.


Pretty Boy

YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT ANY?
NO, MA'AM.
IT'S A PITY. A BOTTLE OF THIS COSTS MORE THAN YOU'VE MADE IN THE LAST SIXTEEN YEARS PUT TOGETHER. A SIP WOULD PAY FOR THIS HOUSE.
HOPE YOU ENJOY IT, THEN.
HM. FORGIVE ME. SOME OF IT DOES TURN MY STOMACH. THERE ARE TRENDS, YOU SEE?
AND SOME OF THE FAMILIES, WELL, THEY'VE NOTICED THE SAME THING THE REST OF US HAVE.
THE CHILDREN ARE GETTING BETTER AT KILLING PEOPLE EVERY YEAR.


OH, DARLING. I THINK IT'S US. I ALWAYS HATE THIS PART. I'M WORRIED I'LL SAY THE WRONG THING AND RUIN SUCH A SPECIAL MOMENT.
HE ALWAYS TELLS ME NOT TO LOSE MY HEAD, BUT THIS IS SUCH A SPECIAL DAY.
AND WE'RE SO PROUD OF OUR CHOICE, AREN'T WE, DEAR?
CONNECTICUT PRESENTS ELECTRICITY.
THIS PLACE IS KIND OF BASIC, HUH?
NOBODY REALLY UNDERSTANDS WHAT CALVIN CAN DO. I THINK WE CAN RACK UP THE MOST POINTS. EASY PEASY LEMON SQUEEZY.
THE FUCKERS WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM.

G4M3R_KID +CALVIN=

AM I LATE?
NO...WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO GET TO THE NEXT CARD.
YEAH, THAT'S ME. I'M NEXT.
EXCUSE ME?!
WE'LL CALL IT HOT GIRL PRIVILEGE.
DELAWARE PRESENTS FIRE.
ONE OF THE MEN IS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THAT FROM YOU AT THE DROP-OFF.
OH. OKAY. I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER.
IT'S GOING TO BE SO PRETTY, ISN'T IT?
WHEN IT'S ALL LIT UP?
LAYLA
BLAZE

WELL. OKAY. NOW BACK TO A LITTLE ORDER, I THINK.
ARE YOU READY?

I DON'T HAVE A CUTE LITTLE THING TO SAY, BUT I DON'T NEED TO. THIS GAME IS ABOUT EFFICACY, AND OUR CHOICE HAS THE BRAINS TO COME OUT ON TOP.

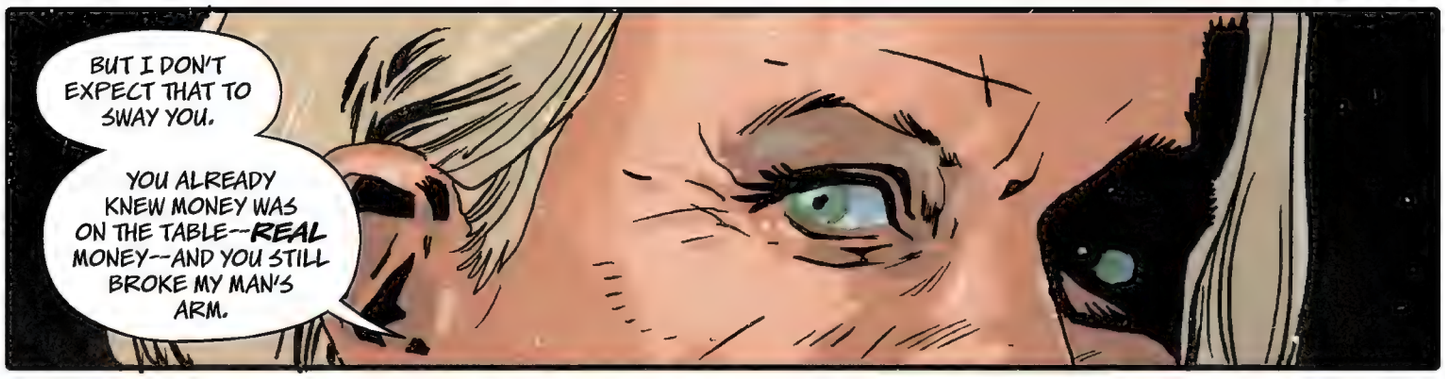
MARYLAND PRESENTS EXPLOSIVES.

BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, HONESTLY. DECENT DENSITY. A FEW TALL BUILDINGS.

IT'LL BE FUN BRINGING THEM DOWN. MAKE SOME S'MORES ON THE ASHES.

SLATER

NOT SURE I SEE THE POINT.
I'M SORRY?
FOR YOUR KILLERS. WE'RE TALKING ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH. WHY WOULD ANYBODY IN THEIR RIGHT MIND AGREE TO DO THIS?
FIRST OFF, I THINK YOU KNOW THAT MOST OF THESE KILLERS ARE NOT IN THEIR RIGHT MINDS.
BUT FOR THE FEW THAT ARE...IF THEY DIE IN THE FIELD, ONE MILLION DOLLARS WILL GO TO THE PERSON OF THEIR CHOOSING.
AND IF THEY SURVIVE, THEY GET A PAYOUT OF ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.
MORE THAN THAT, THEY'LL GET A NEW IDENTITY. ALL OF THE CRIMES OF THEIR PAST WILL BE EXPUNGED FROM THEIR RECORDS. THEY CAN MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR THEMSELVES.


BUT I DON'T EXPECT THAT TO SWAY YOU.
YOU ALREADY KNEW MONEY WAS ON THE TABLE--REAL MONEY--AND YOU STILL BROKE MY MAN'S ARM.

SOUNDED LIKE HE HAD THE CASH TO GET IT TAKEN CARE OF.

BUT I DO THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOUR LIFE IS MISSING. MOST OF OUR PLAYERS, THEY WANT THE CHANCE TO START ANEW.

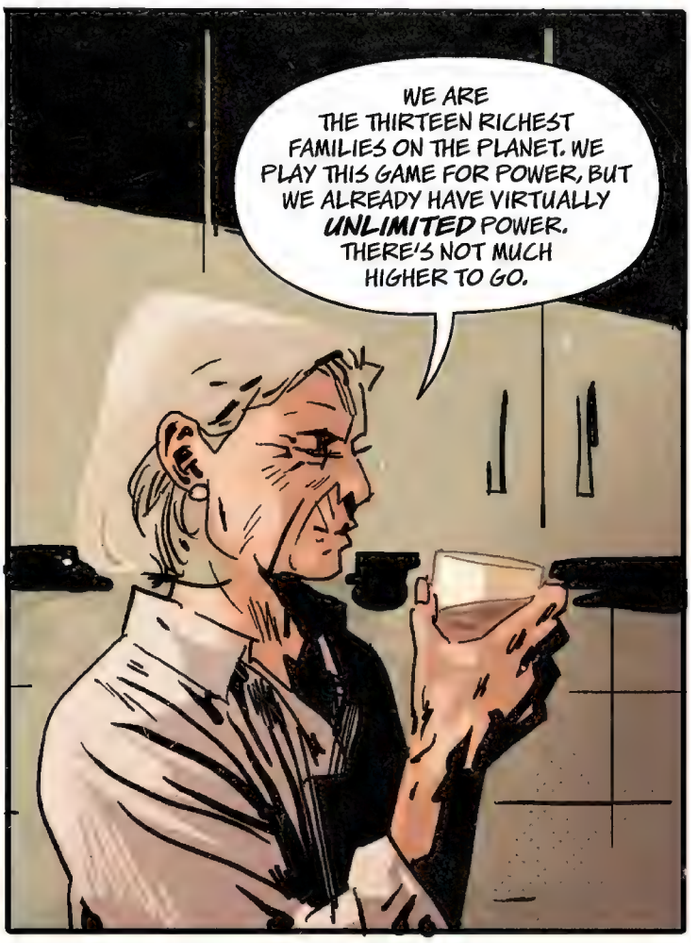
IF I WIN THE GAME, I'LL USE THE POWER AT MY DISPOSAL TO GIVE YOU BACK YOUR OLD LIFE.

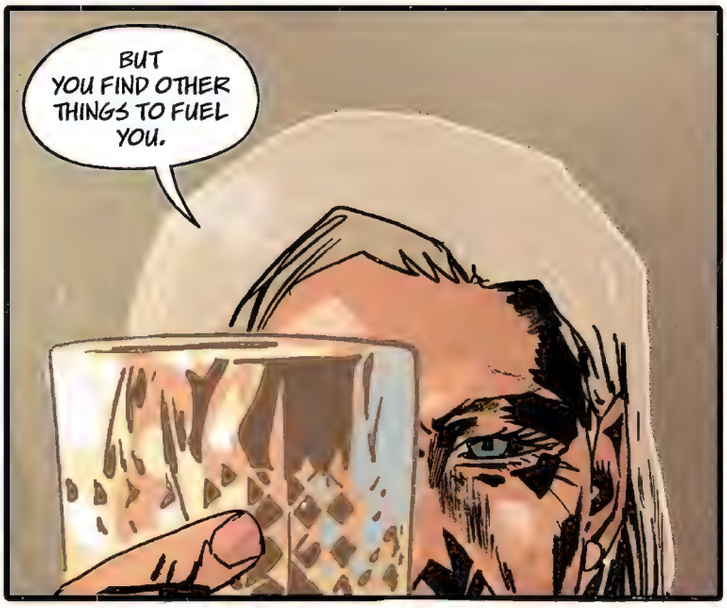
HOW?

I'LL EXERT THE FULL POWER OF MY AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE PEOPLE WHO STRIPPED YOU OF YOUR TITLES APOLOGIZE AND GIVE THEM BACK TO YOU.
AND PUT YOU WHERE YOU BELONG. IN THE FIELD.

GOOD.
I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION.

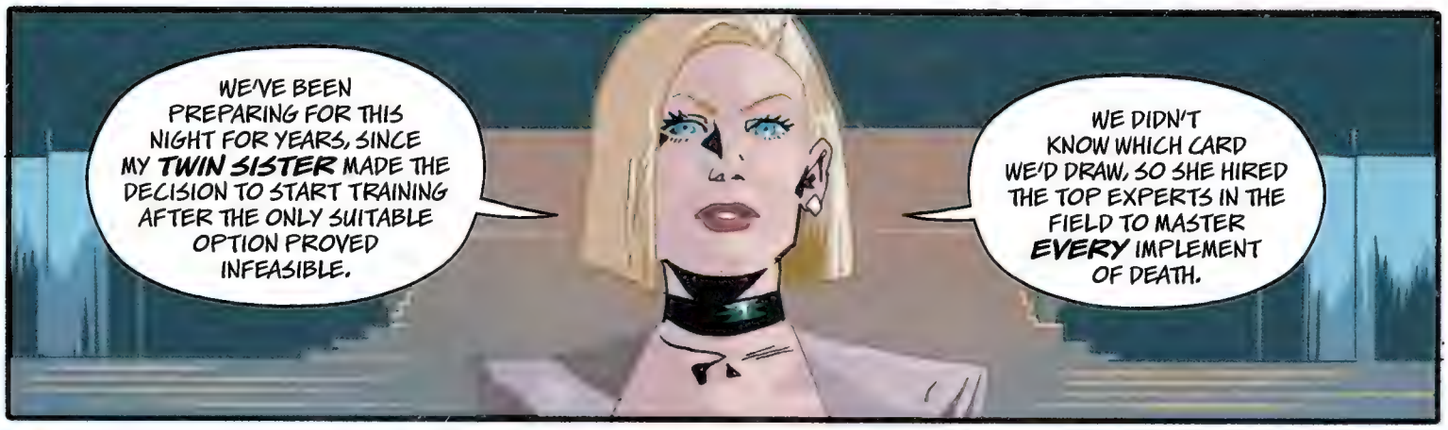
AND WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?

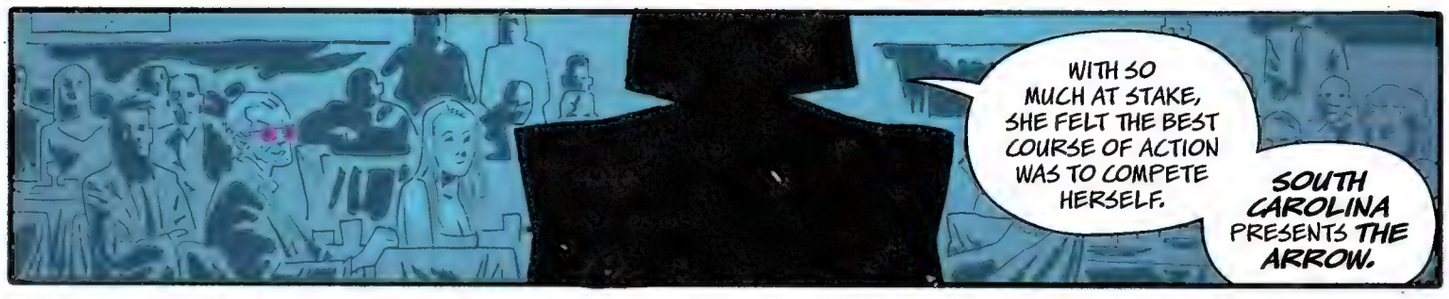

WE ARE THE THIRTEEN RICHEST FAMILIES ON THE PLANET. WE PLAY THIS GAME FOR POWER, BUT WE ALREADY HAVE VIRTUALLY ***UNLIMITED*** POWER. THERE'S NOT MUCH HIGHER TO GO.


BUT YOU FIND OTHER THINGS TO FUEL YOU.

AND SPITE... SPITE IS A ***POWERFUL*** FUEL.

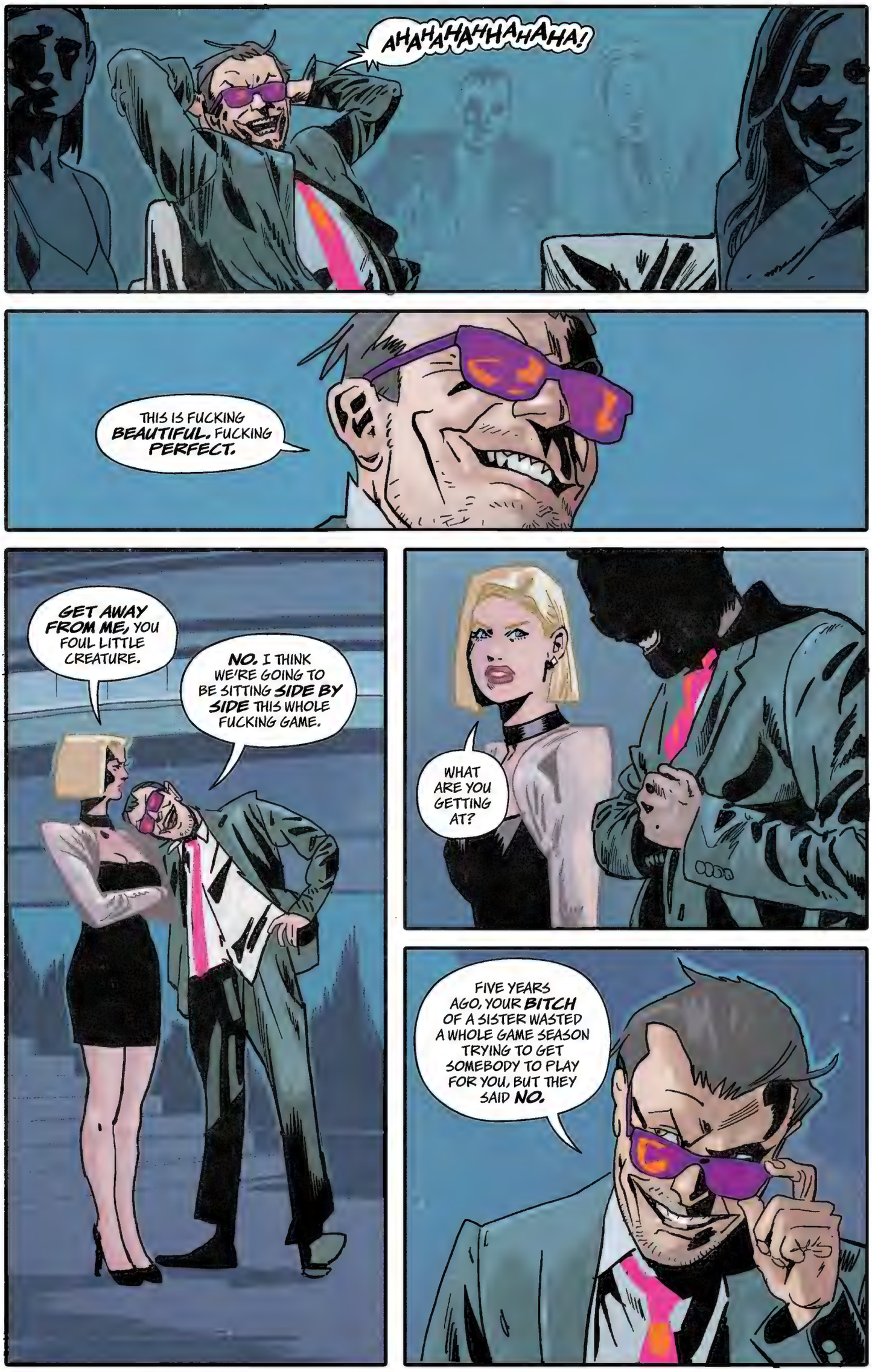
YES. FINALLY.
FORGIVE US OUR TARDINESS, GAMESMASTER.
THERE WERE PERSONAL ITEMS TO ATTEND TO.
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, DON'T YOU WORRY. DO YOU HAVE YOUR CARD?
YES, BUT I THINK THIS IS A MOMENT THAT DESERVES EVERYONE'S ATTENTION. IF YOU DON'T MIND.
DING DING DING

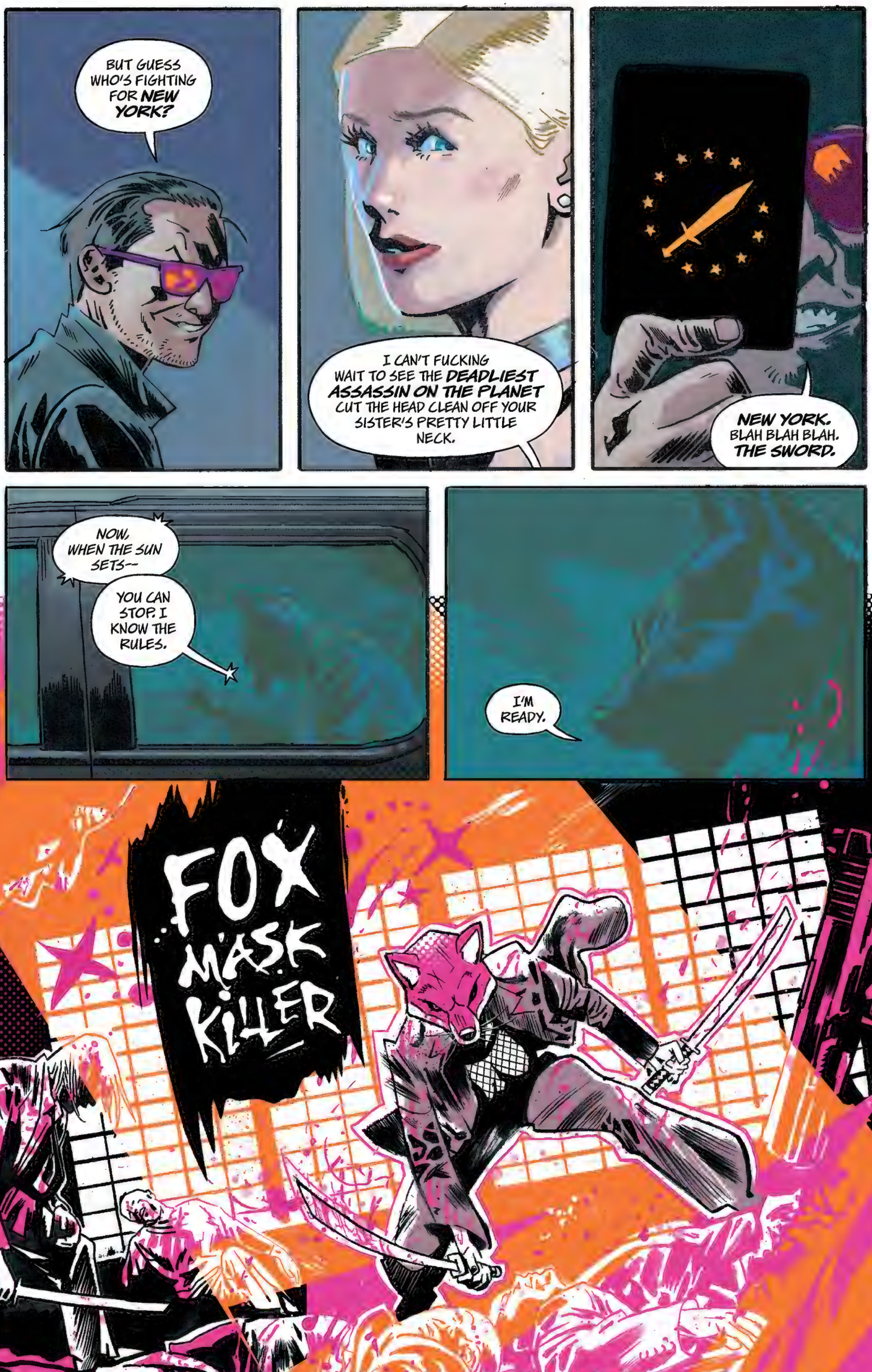

WE'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS NIGHT FOR YEARS, SINCE MY TWIN SISTER MADE THE DECISION TO START TRAINING AFTER THE ONLY SUITABLE OPTION PROVED INFEASIBLE.
WE DIDN'T KNOW WHICH CARD WE'D DRAW, SO SHE HIRED THE TOP EXPERTS IN THE FIELD TO MASTER EVERY IMPLEMENT OF DEATH.



IT CERTAINLY THINKS IT'S A PRETTY LITTLE TOWN, DOESN'T IT. WHAT'S IT CALLED AGAIN?
OAK VALLEY, MA'AM.
HOW QUAINT. I'D NEVER HAVE THOUGHT TO SET FOOT IN A DIRTY LITTLE PLACE LIKE THIS.

Lady Carolina


AHAHAHAHHAHAHA!
THIS IS FUCKING BEAUTIFUL. FUCKING PERFECT.
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU FOUL LITTLE CREATURE.
NO. I THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE SITTING SIDE BY SIDE THIS WHOLE FUCKING GAME.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
FIVE YEARS AGO, YOUR BITCH OF A SISTER WASTED A WHOLE GAME SEASON TRYING TO GET SOMEBODY TO PLAY FOR YOU, BUT THEY SAID NO.


BUT GUESS WHO'S FIGHTING FOR NEW YORK?
I CAN'T FUCKING WAIT TO SEE THE DEADLIEST ASSASSIN ON THE PLANET CUT THE HEAD CLEAN OFF YOUR SISTER'S PRETTY LITTLE NECK.
NEW YORK. BLAH BLAH BLAH. THE SWORD.
NOW, WHEN THE SUN SETS--
YOU CAN STOP. I KNOW THE RULES.
I'M READY.
FOX MASK KILLER

BIG BRUCE
AUTO SALES
WE BUY

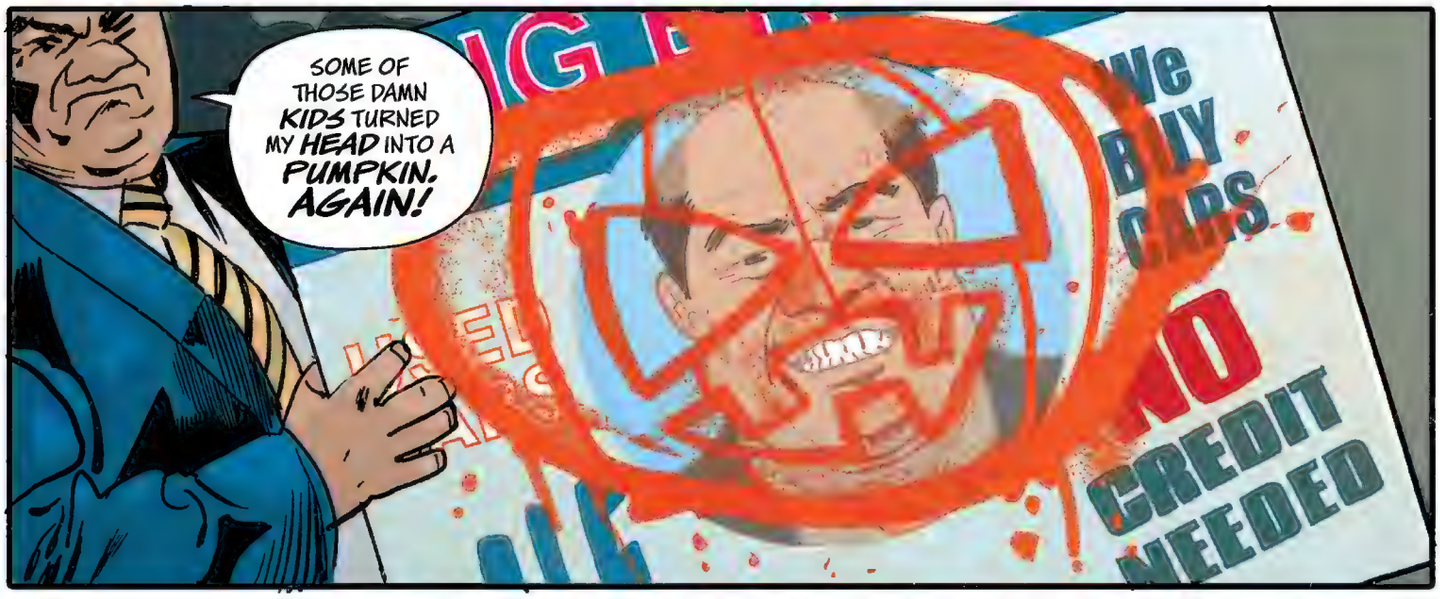
AUDREY! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?!
I CAN SEE YOUR CAR BUT I CAN'T SEE YOU!

I'M SORRY... I JUST HAD TO MAKE SURE JASON--

I DON'T NEED TO HEAR EXCUSES. WE'VE GOT A HUGE SALE GOING ON AND NOBODY IS HERE! WHY IS NOBODY IN OUR DEALERSHIP TODAY?

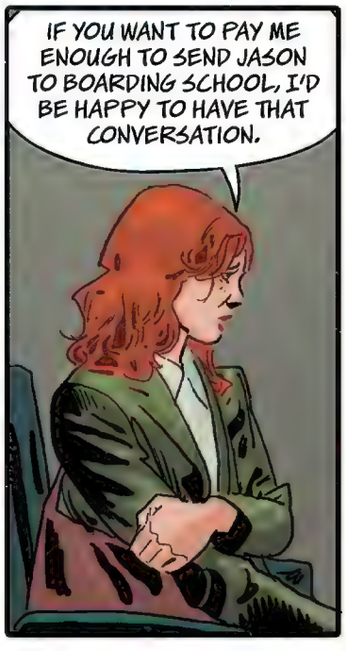
I CAN MAKE SURE THAT THE AD BUY WENT THROUGH. IT SHOULD BE ALL OVER THE RADIOS. I'M SORRY, MR. NGUYEN.

DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. CAN'T GET THE DAMN SHERIFF ON THE PHONE. AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE PLAYING FAMILY MATTERS?

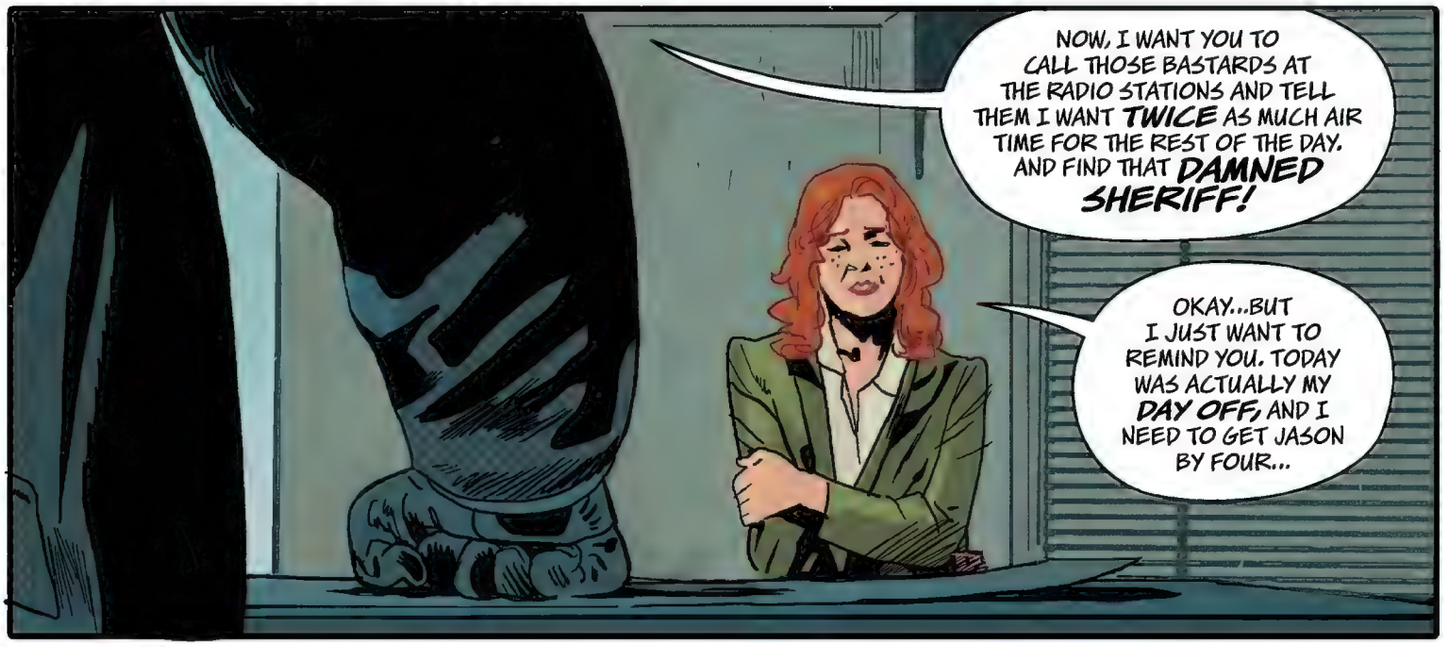

SOME OF THOSE DAMN KIDS TURNED MY HEAD INTO A PUMPKIN. AGAIN!
We BUY GOLD
NO CREDIT NEEDED

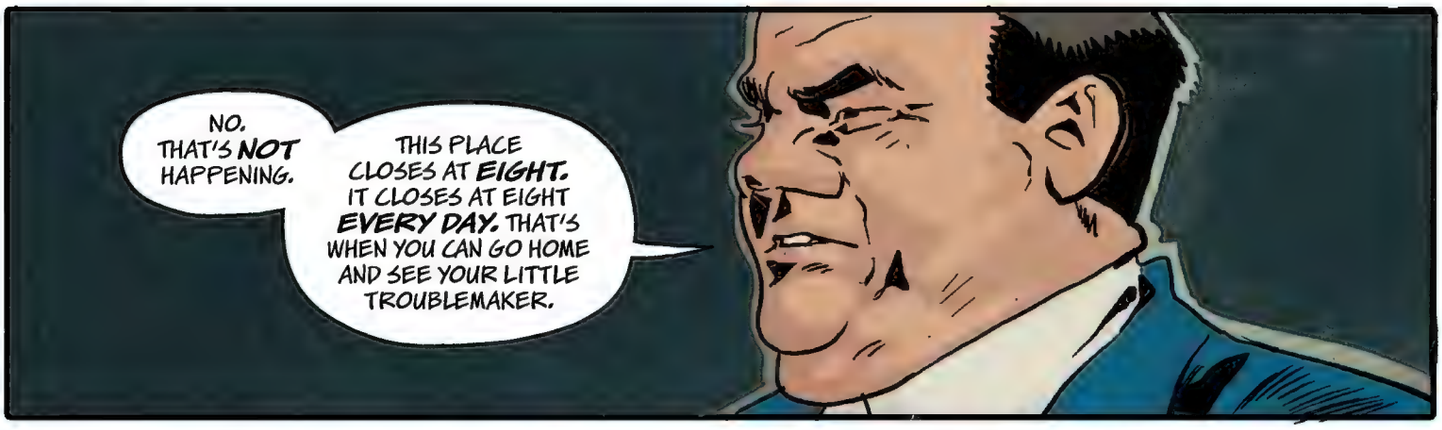
THAT'S VANDALISM. I WANT THOSE KIDS STRUNG UP. DO YOU HEAR ME, AUDREY?!
I WANT THE FORCE OF GOD ON THEM. THEY'RE LAUGHING AT US, AND YOU'RE OFF BAKING COOKIES WITH JAMIE.

JASON.
WHATEVER. YOU DON'T SEE ME MISSING WORK TO SPEND TIME WITH MY BRATS.
I'LL HAVE THEM ALL SHIPPED OFF TO SCHOOL IN A YEAR OR TWO, AND THEY CAN BOTHER ME WHEN THEY'RE OLD ENOUGH TO REASON WITH.
2020


IF YOU WANT TO PAY ME ENOUGH TO SEND JASON TO BOARDING SCHOOL, I'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE THAT CONVERSATION.

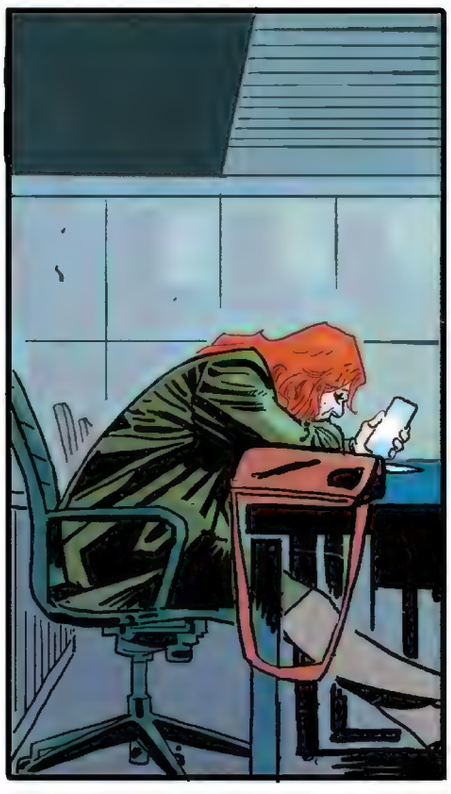
WHAT? HA!
SEE, THIS IS WHY I LOVE YOU. YOU'RE SO FUNNY.


NOW, I WANT YOU TO CALL THOSE BASTARDS AT THE RADIO STATIONS AND TELL THEM I WANT TWICE AS MUCH AIR TIME FOR THE REST OF THE DAY. AND FIND THAT DAMNED SHERIFF!
OKAY...BUT I JUST WANT TO REMIND YOU. TODAY WAS ACTUALLY MY DAY OFF, AND I NEED TO GET JASON BY FOUR...


NO. THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.
THIS PLACE CLOSES AT EIGHT. IT CLOSES AT EIGHT EVERY DAY. THAT'S WHEN YOU CAN GO HOME AND SEE YOUR LITTLE TROUBLEMAKER.

BUT TRICK-OR-TREATING...
BUY HIM SOME CANDY TOMORROW WHEN IT'S ON CLEARANCE. HE'S NOT GOING TO CARE. CANDY IS CANDY.
MR. NGUYEN...

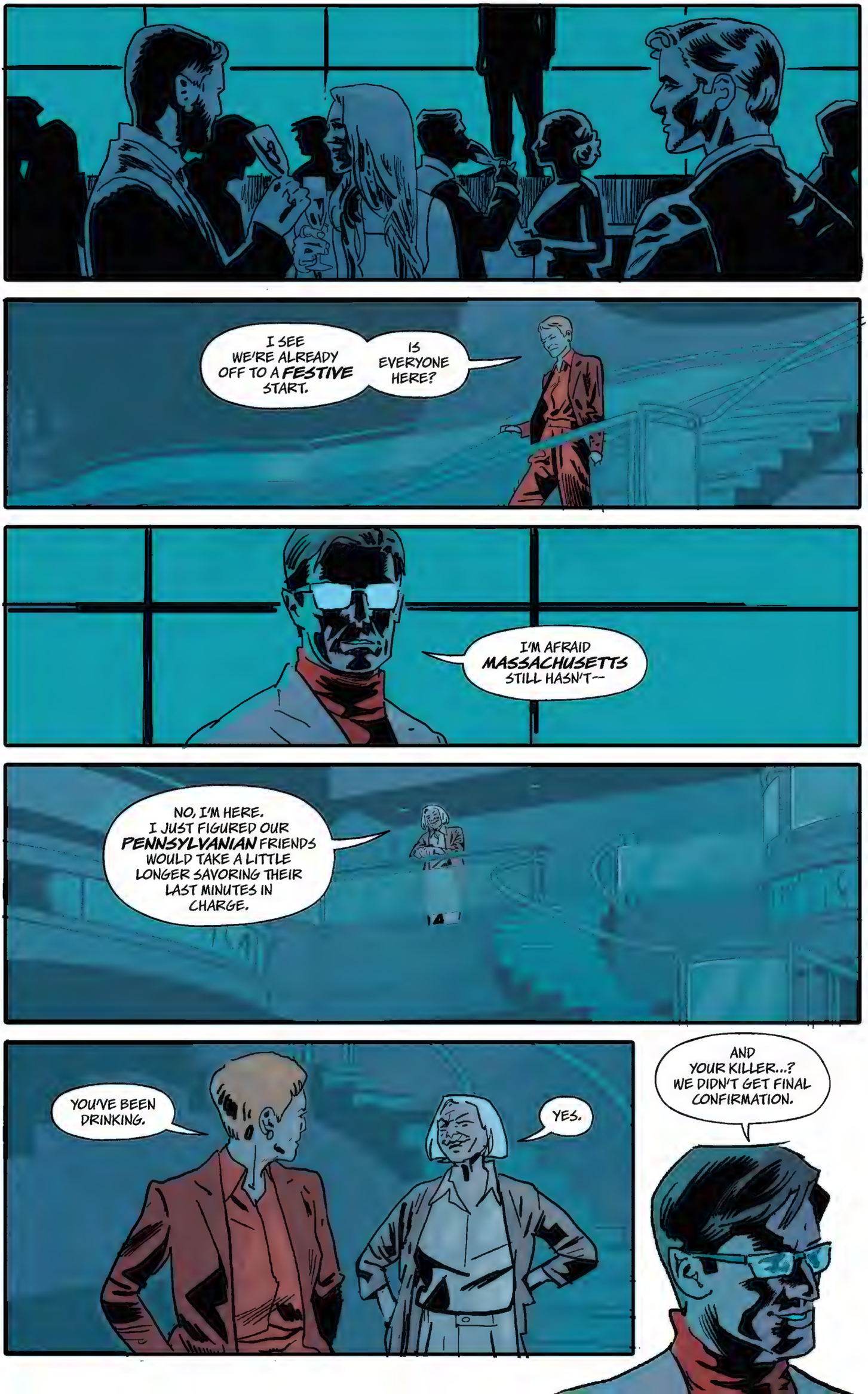
I BETTER SEE YOU ON THAT PHONE TERRORIZING SOME RADIO STATIONS. THAT'S WHAT I PAY YOU FOR. DEAL WITH YOUR KID ON YOUR OWN TIME.



HELLO?
CRAIG, HONEY, IS THAT YOU?
MRS. MCINERNEY. SORRY, IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO HEAR...
I HOPE HE'S NOT BEING A TERROR.
HE'S GREAT. DON'T WORRY.
LOOK. I HATE TO DO THIS...BUT I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET AWAY IN TIME FOR TRICK-OR-TREATING.
JASON'S GOING TO BE SO MAD...AND I'M SURE YOU AND XAVI HAVE YOUR OWN PLANS.
HEY, IT'S OKAY. WHAT IF I TAKE HIM?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
I THINK IT'LL BE FUN. SEEMS MORE LIKE WHAT HALLOWEEN IS SUPPOSED TO BE. I CAN DEAL WITH XAVI BEING MAD. I CAN PROBABLY EVEN GUILT HIM INTO COMING WITH.
YOU'RE A SAINT.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, OKAY? JUST CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE ON THE WAY HOME.
AUDREY!!!
COMING!

IT'S BEEN THIRTY YEARS SINCE OUR FAMILY HAS WON THIS GAME, AND I CAN'T BEAR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS WITH THOSE LUNATICS RUNNING THE ASYLUM.
I NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN WIN. SOMEONE WITH MORE EXPERIENCE THAN ALL THE COMMON CUTTHROATS AND MAD MEN.
I WANT A MAN OF HONOR. SOMEONE WHO CAN SHOW THAT THIS GAME CAN BE WON THE RIGHT WAY.
SOMEONE WHO CAN PUT THE OTHERS IN THEIR PLACE.
AND YOU CAN DO IT. YOU CAN GIVE ME MY LIFE BACK?
IF I WIN THIS GAME, I CAN DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING I WANT.

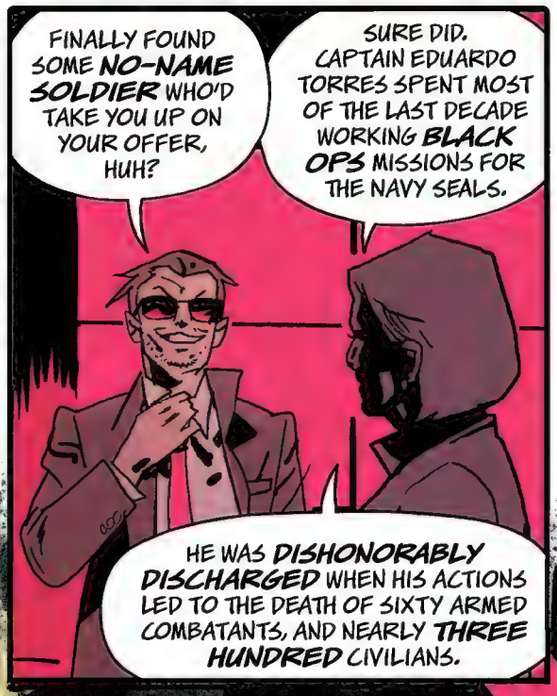
OKAY.
YEAH. OKAY, I'LL DO IT.
NOK NOK
NOW THERE'S ONE MORE THING, AND IT'S A BIT SILLY. BUT IT'S A TRADITION.
SOMETHING EVERY KILLER WORKING FOR MY FAMILY HAS WORN SINCE THE FIRST GAME.
IF YOU PLAY ALONG, YOU'LL BE PLAYING IN THIS.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?


I SEE WE'RE ALREADY OFF TO A FESTIVE START.
IS EVERYONE HERE?
I'M AFRAID MASSACHUSETTS STILL HASN'T--
NO, I'M HERE. I JUST FIGURED OUR PENNSYLVANIAN FRIENDS WOULD TAKE A LITTLE LONGER SAVORING THEIR LAST MINUTES IN CHARGE.
YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING.
YES.
AND YOUR KILLER...? WE DIDN'T GET FINAL CONFIRMATION.

YOU JUST DIDN'T WANT TO PICK EARLY AND RISK THE REST OF US FINDING OUT, AND PREPARING OUR KILLERS FOR YOURS.
YOU'RE PLAYING WITH US.

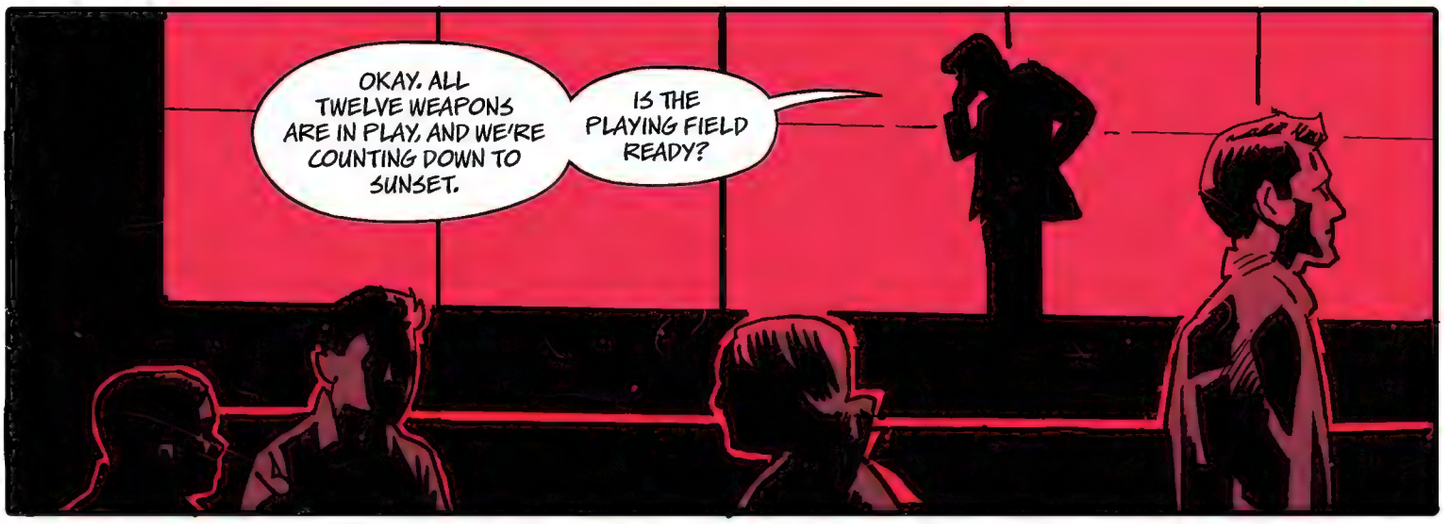
SURE. IT'S A GAME. I'M PLAYING. WE'RE ALL PLAYING. BUT I DO HAVE MY PICK, AND HE'S ENTERING THE PLAYING FIELD NOW.
I SENT WORD TO THE GROUNDSKEEPER AN HOUR OR SO AGO.

MASSA-CHUSETTS PRESENTS THE GUN.


FINALLY FOUND SOME NO-NAME SOLDIER WHO'D TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER, HUH?
SURE DID. CAPTAIN EDUARDO TORRES SPENT MOST OF THE LAST DECADE WORKING BLACK OPS MISSIONS FOR THE NAVY SEALS.
HE WAS DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED WHEN HIS ACTIONS LED TO THE DEATH OF SIXTY ARMED COMBATANTS, AND NEARLY THREE HUNDRED CIVILIANS.

THE ARMED SERVICES COVERED IT UP, AND HID HIM AWAY FROM THE WORLD TO PREVENT THE STORY FROM SPREADING.
BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM US, CAN YOU?

LONE
GUNMAN


OKAY. ALL TWELVE WEAPONS ARE IN PLAY, AND WE'RE COUNTING DOWN TO SUNSET.
IS THE PLAYING FIELD READY?

ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN OAK VALLEY OTHER THAN SHORT-FORM RADIO HAVE NOW BEEN SEVERED.

"ALL ROADS ARE SEALED UNTIL THE END OF THE GAME.
ROAD CLOSED

"KILLERS ARE IN STARTING POSITIONS, AND BRIEFED ON THE RULES."

THE PLAYING FIELD IS READY.

ON YOUR WORD, YOUR REIGN ENDS AND THE GAME BEGINS.

GO.

RAAAH!
OH MY GOD, SO CRINGE.
SECONDHAND EMBARRASSMENT IS THE REAL TERROR.
HAHAHAHA!
U: I going to kill me but I have bad news about the party later
The
Q W E R T Y
A S D F G H J
Z X C V B N M

HEY, I'M GOING TO TAKE MY BREAK. IS THAT COOL?
YEAH. WHATEVER, MAN.
COOL.
TRINKETS

EXIT ONLY
DO NOT ENTER

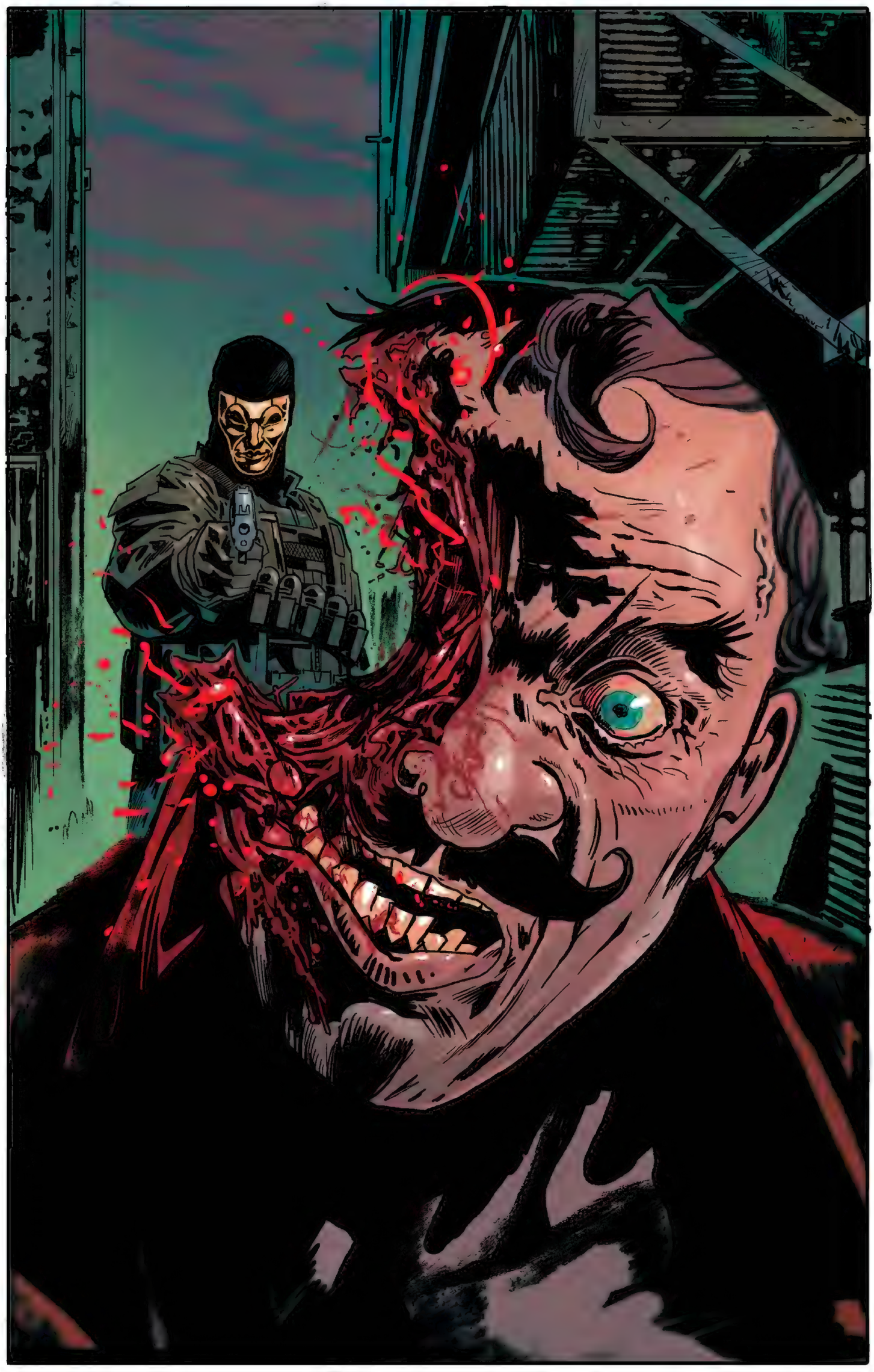
Not Delivered
Not Delivered
Not Delivered
Not Delivered

WHAT THE FUCK? NOTHING'S GOING THROUGH...

No Service
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
CLICK
HUH?

SORRY. THE ENTRANCE TO THE HAUNT IS AROUND THE CORNER. PRETTY BIG LINE, I KNOW, BUT THIS SPOT'S JUST FOR EMPLOYEES.
AH, BUT I AM DOING MY JOB.
OKAY.
LOOK, I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE, OR I'M GOING TO CALL THE POLICE.
HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU.

YOU PAINT YOURSELF LIKE THE DEAD, LITTLE BOY?
I WILL HELP YOU TO TRULY LOOK THE PART!
BLAM

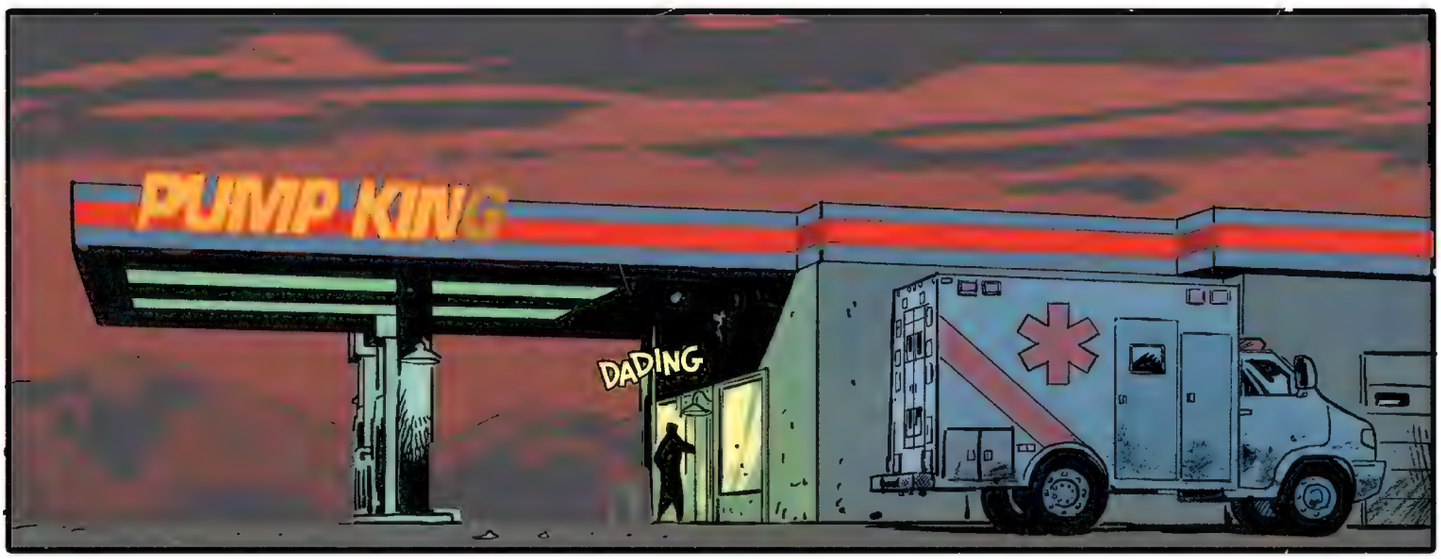


WHAT... WHAT IS THIS... WHAT'S GOING ON?!

RUN AND HIDE BEFORE YOU FIND OUT. DON'T COME OUT AGAIN UNTIL MORNING.

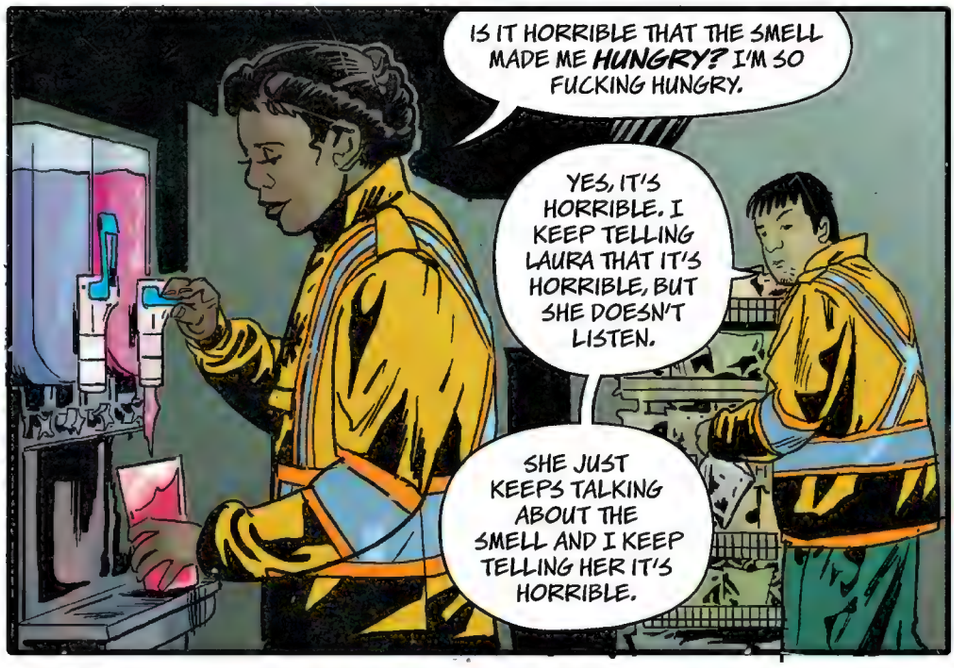
FUCK.

FUCK!


PUMP KING
DADING

YOU SEEING THIS SHIT, MAN?
THE FUCKING INTERNET IS OUT. I WAS LISTENING TO SOME HEAVY SHIT AND THEY DIDN'T WANT ME TO HEAR IT ANYMORE, MAN.
Under 21
bacco

HEART-BREAKING, MIKE.
HMMM, YOU'RE IN HERE LATE. THAT'S FUCKING SUSPICIOUS, MAN.
SOME TEENS STARTED PARTYING A LITTLE EARLY. WE HAD TO PUMP A FEW STOMACHS.


IS IT HORRIBLE THAT THE SMELL MADE ME HUNGRY? I'M SO FUCKING HUNGRY.
YES, IT'S HORRIBLE. I KEEP TELLING LAURA THAT IT'S HORRIBLE, BUT SHE DOESN'T LISTEN.
SHE JUST KEEPS TALKING ABOUT THE SMELL AND I KEEP TELLING HER IT'S HORRIBLE.

I DON'T MIND BEING A LITTLE HORRIBLE, IAN.

TODAY'S ALL FUCKING BACKWARDS, MAN. LAURA, DOG. I GOT A LETTER FOR YOU.
YEAH?
FROM THE MAIN MAN. THE BIG CHIEF.

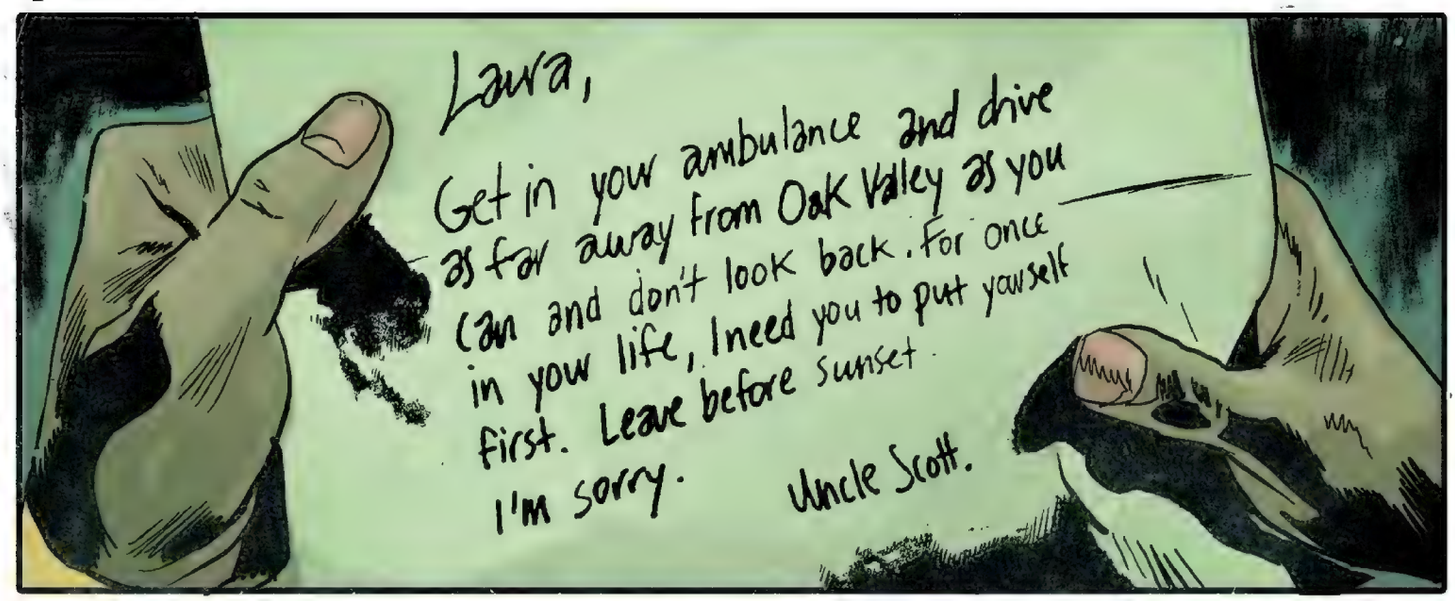
SHERIFF HILL?
LAURA

TELL ME WHAT'S BEEN BACKWARDS. TELL ME ANYTHING THAT'S NOT HOW GOOD THE VOMIT SMELLS.

IT'S THE VANS, MAN. THESE BIG BLACK CARS. THEY'VE BEEN COMING IN AND OUT ALL DAY.
AND THE PEOPLE IN THEM. THEY'RE WEIRD-LOOKING, YOU KNOW? THEY'RE NOT OAK VALLEY TYPES.

IT'S THE SECRET GOVERNMENT, MAN. AND THEY'RE HERE, AND THEY JUST TOOK OUR FUCKING INTERNET AWAY SO NOBODY KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO GET UP TO.
BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE GOOD. YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER, MAN! WE'RE NOT FUCKING PEOPLE TO THEM.

WE'RE BUGS ON THE WINDSHIELD!


Laura,
Get in your ambulance and drive as far away from Oak Valley as you can and don't look back. For once in your life, I need you to put yourself first. Leave before sunset.
I'm sorry.
Uncle Scott.

METH HEAD MIKE'S ON A REAL TEAR TONIGHT.
DON'T CALL HIM THAT.
YEAH. SORRY.

WHAT WAS THE NOTE?

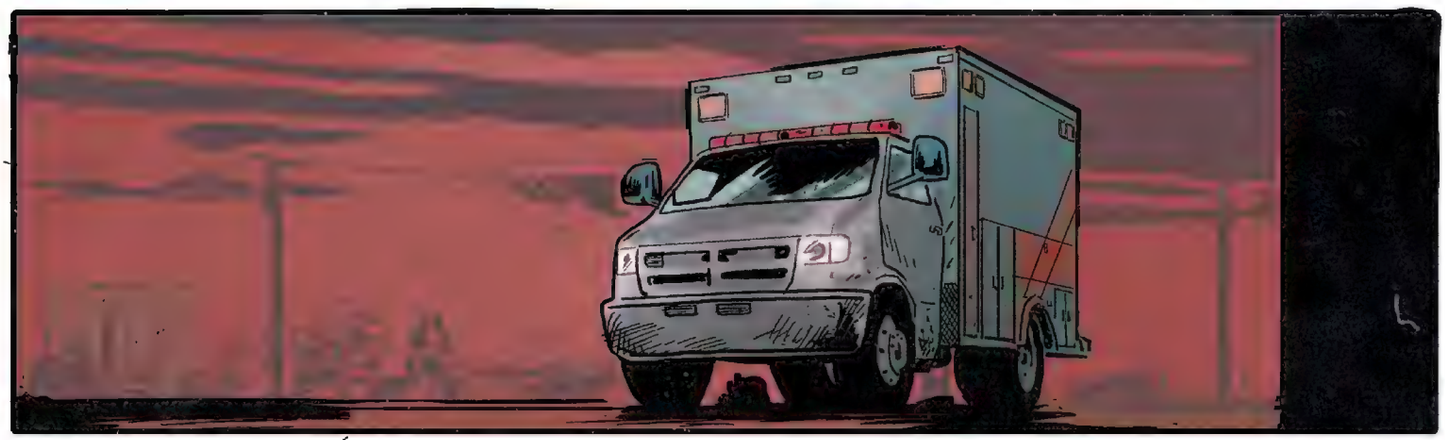
I DON'T KNOW.

BODY FOUND ON KING STREET... EMERGENCY SERVICES REQUESTED.
SHIT, THAT'S US.

PUMP KING
DUDE, THEY'RE SAYING IT'S A HOMICIDE, AND NOBODY CAN REACH THE SHERIFF. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE ANYTHING GOOD.

YOU OKAY, LAURA? WHAT WAS IN THAT LETTER?

NOTHING. LET'S GET TO WORK.

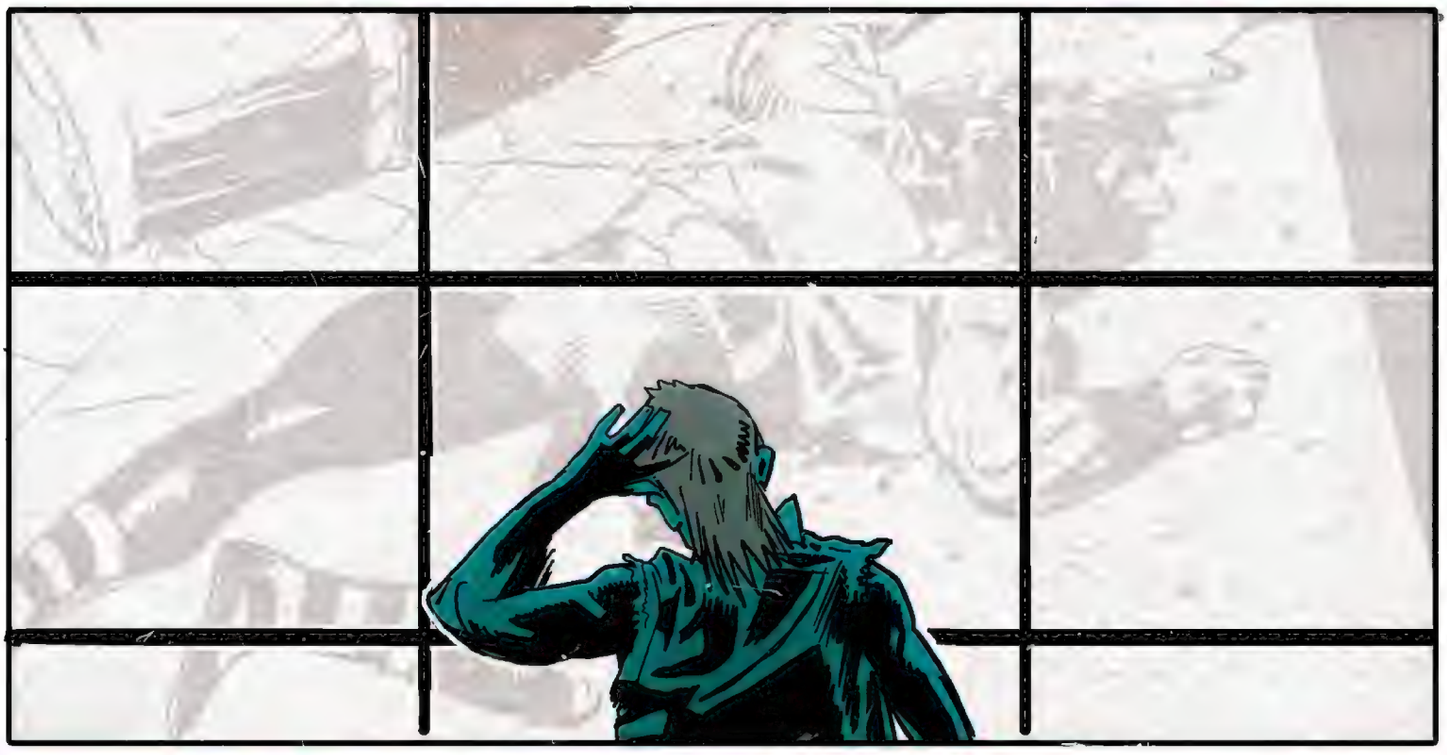


WELCOME
TO
OAK VALLEY

HAPPY HALLOWEEN, OAK VALLEY.
LET'S MAKE THIS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER.

CHAPTER TWO

NO!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!



SETTLE, BOY. IT'S HOW THESE THINGS GO.
BUT DADDY, YOU KNOW HOW STRONG HE WAS. THIS ISN'T FAIR.

WHO SAID THIS GAME WAS FUCKING FAIR?

YOU HAVING FUN YET, DARLING?
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU DEGENERATE.

OH, I'M HURT! I'M WOUNDED! BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WHEN IT'S YOUR SISTER'S BLOOD ON THE SCREEN, YOU CAN CRY ON MY SHOULDER.

FIRST KILL. I HEAR THAT'S TYPICALLY LUCRATIVE.
YEAH, I'M RICH NOW. LUCKY ME.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE RELISHING YOUR VICTORY MUCH.
I DON'T PLAY THE SIDE BETS. DON'T LET THE REST OF MY FAMILY DO IT, EITHER. IT WARPS WHAT THIS GAME IS REALLY ABOUT.
AND WHAT IS THE GAME ABOUT?
IT'S ABOUT POWER. YOU KNOW THAT.
THIS IS WHEN WE REMIND OURSELVES WHY WE SHOULD BE AFRAID OF EACH OTHER.
IMAGINE IF ALL I HAD UP MY SLEEVE WAS DEPRAVITY. THAT'S NO WAY TO WIN. AND NO WAY TO SCARE PEOPLE.
NOT FOR MORE THAN A MOMENT, ANYWAYS.
YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN THIS ONE.
IT'S EARLY.
BUT I KNOW HOW YOU PLAY.

DO YOU, NOW?
I BEAT YOUR CREATURE LAST TIME, DIDN'T I?
I'M SURE IT'S THE SAME NOW. I'M SURE YOUR TOY SOLDIER WAS GIVEN DOSSIERS ON EACH OF THE KILLERS HE HAS TO TAKE OFF THE BOARD.
YOUR LITTLE SPIES ARE ALWAYS GOOD AT WHAT THEY DO.
THEY ARE, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER THIS EARLY.
STILL. YOU DREW FIRST BLOOD.
IT ALWAYS STARTS BLOODY. THERE ARE ALWAYS SURPRISES BEFORE THE KILLERS HAVE FULLY EYED EACH OTHER UP.
IT'S NOT ABOUT STRATEGY AT THE START. IT'S ABOUT LUCK.
AND LUCK ISN'T WORTH A DAMN THING.

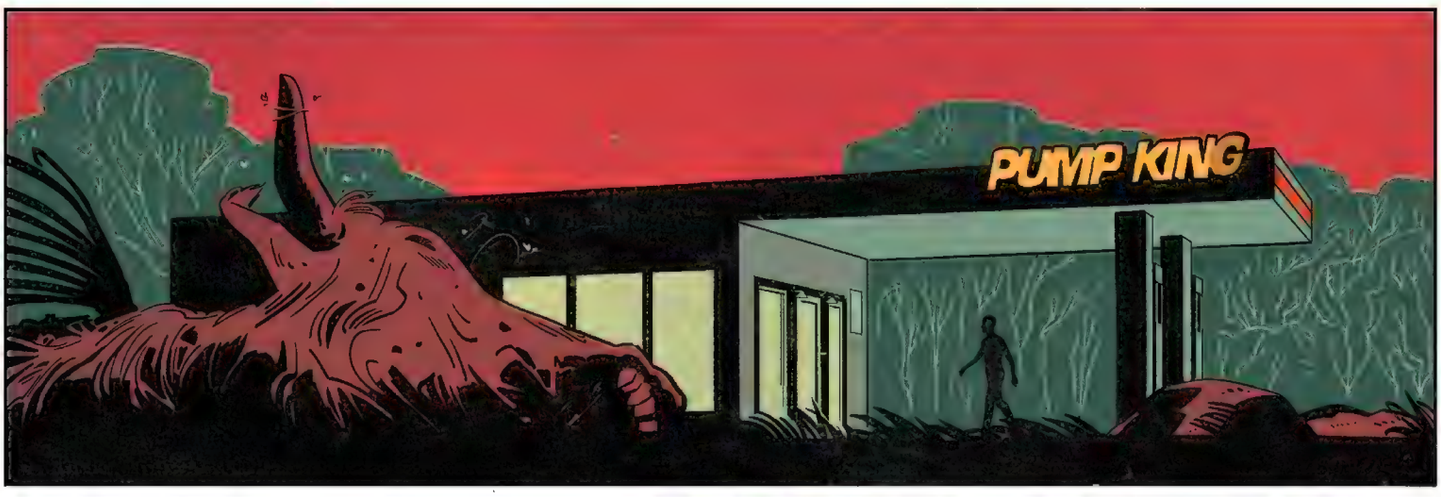
GAMESMASTER TO GROUNDSKEEPER.

I'M HERE.
GOOD. WE NEED TO KEEP EYES ON THE BORDER, AND ANY TRANSMISSIONS INSIDE THE PLAYING FIELD.

FIRST DEATH IS IN THE TOWN CENTER. I'M NOT SENDING MY TEAM IN YET. IT'LL DRAW TOO MUCH ATTENTION TOO EARLY.
MY MEN ARE AT THE BOUNDARIES. DON'T YOU WORRY.

GOOD. GOOD. THE GAME HAS STARTED NOW IN EARNEST, AND YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES. THE BLOOD IS STARTING TO FLOW IN OAK VALLEY.

AND ITS PEOPLE ARE GOING TO START NOTICING ANY MINUTE NOW.


PUMP KING

DING
JESUS, ROB. IT'S ABOUT FUCKING TIME. YOU'RE TWENTY MINUTES LATE, MAN.
IS YOUR PHONE OUT, TOO? I BET IT IS, I FUCKING BET IT IS.

I'M TELLING YOU, MAN. THIS IS JUST LIKE THE...THE FUCKING MOON SHIT I TOLD YOU ABOUT! THERE IS SOME WACK PISS GOING ON HERE TONIGHT.
MY GUESS? MICROCHIPS. MICROCHIPS, OR LIKE...

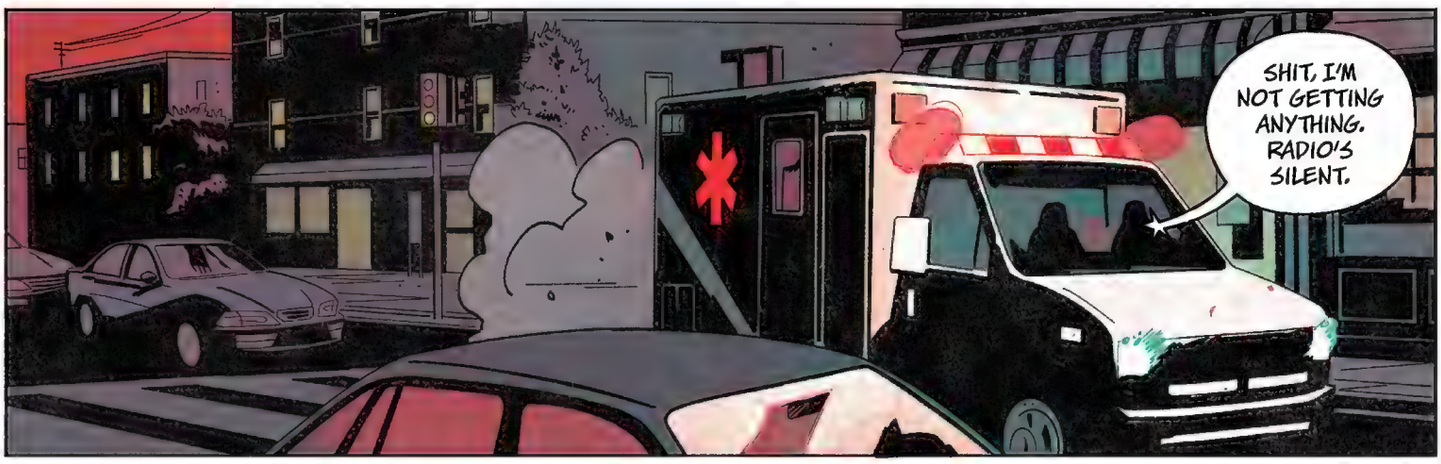
...LIKE, A NEW PANDEMIC TEST, MAYBE...YEAH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE THEM.
I JUST WISH SOMEONE WOULD TELL ME WHAT'S GOING--

OH.
HOW LITTLE YOU UNDERSTAND.

THERE IS A GAME BEING PLAYED.
WH- WHAT--
AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN A PAWN.
THEY TRIED TO KEEP MY TOOLS FROM ME--
DING
I'LL SHOW THEM.

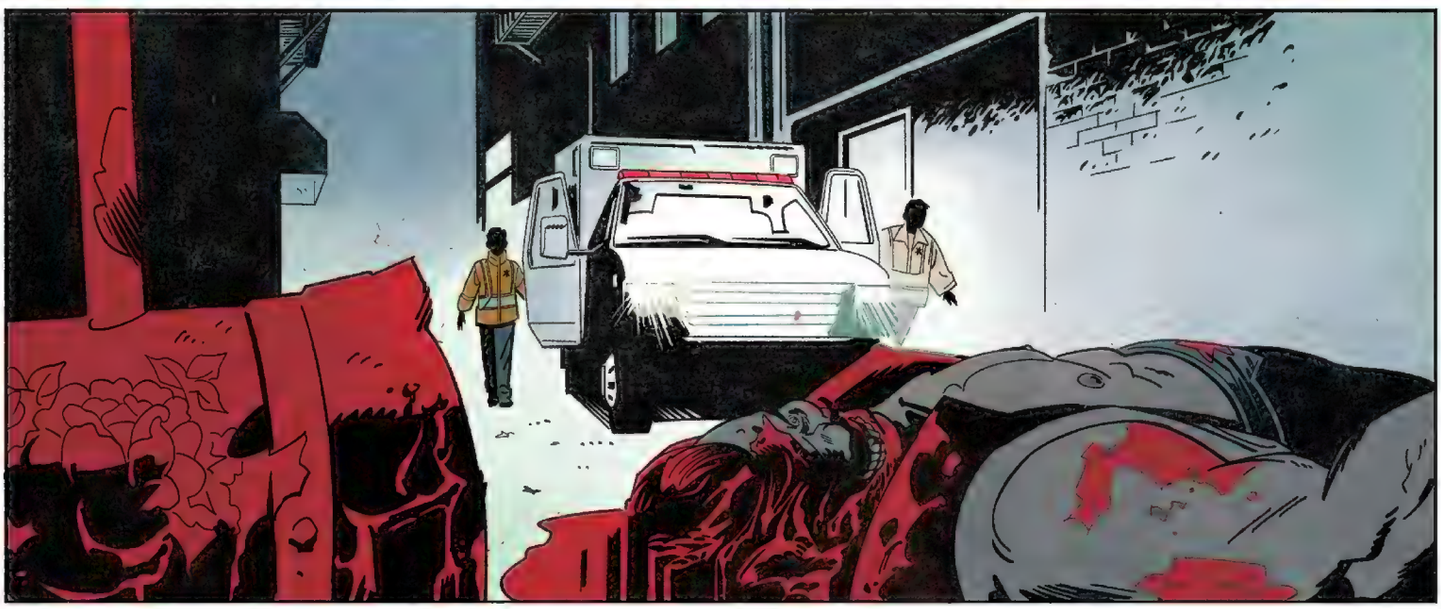
WHAT THE FUCK?
LET HIM GO!
I BOW TO ONE MASTER!
=HK=
ROB.
THIS BLADE WILL BE ENOUGH FOR MY PURPOSES.
MIKE... PLEASE.
HELP.

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR MERIT, YOUNG MAN. WE'RE ALL SO VERY PROUD OF YOU.
YOUR FACE WILL BE A BOON TO THE CONGREGATION.
MIKE.
I'M SORRY.
JOIN US NOW, IN SPLENDOR, AS WE USHER IN THE FINAL AGE OF MAN.
MIKE, HEL—
=GRGL=
SHNK
DON'T WORRY, CHILD. THE PAIN WILL BE OVER SOON.
Shrrrrrk Kuk
SHK
UGGGH, OH GOD. FUCK. FUCK.
SHNK SHNK SHNK
BLERK
PUMPKING


SHIT, I'M NOT GETTING ANYTHING. RADIO'S SILENT.

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

FUCK. WHERE ARE THE COPS?



HAVE...HAVE YOU SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE? WHEN YOU WERE WITH--
NO, I NEVER SAW ACTION.
I...I'M GOING TO TRY THE RADIO AGAIN.

THERE YOU ARE.
THE POLICE HAVE ALREADY LEFT. THEY ASKED ME TO STAY AND WAIT FOR THE EMT.
THEY... LEFT?
RAN OFF TO ANOTHER EMERGENCY. THERE WASN'T ANY HELPING THIS POOR FELLOW.
THEY, UM...THEY ASKED ME TO RELAY A MESSAGE WHEN YOU ARRIVED.
I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN YOU AROUND THE HOSPITAL BEFORE.
OH, SORRY. WHERE WERE MY MANNERS? I'M NEW IN TOWN.
NURSE PETE!

LAURA.
WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE?
THE MESSAGE?
...YOU SAID THE POLICE LEFT A MESSAGE.
OH YES! HEHE, RIGHT, RIGHT. OH PETE, WHERE IS YOUR HEAD?
THEY WANTED YOU TO PACK UP THE BODY, UM. SOME VERY BIG THINGS HAPPENING TONIGHT.
COULDN'T JUST LEAVE THE BODY OUT LIKE THIS. KIDS RUNNING AROUND AND SUCH. NO, COULDN'T HAVE THAT.
GET IT TO THE HOSPITAL, AND THEY'LL BE THERE WHEN THEY CAN.
ALL RIGHT, LET ME CHECK IN WITH MY PARTNER.

I'M TELLING YOU, THERE IS SOMETHING OFF ABOUT THE GUY.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO HERE? THERE'S NO PROTOCOL FOR THIS.
I KNOW. I DON'T KNOW...
LAURA, I'M CALLING IT. LET'S JUST GET THAT BODY OFF THE STREET AND FIGURE IT OUT FROM THERE.
EXCUSE ME...I WAS HOPING I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET A RIDE WITH YOU.
I MISSED MY BUS AMID ALL THE HULLABALOO.
WHAT SAY YOU GIVE US A HAND GETTING THIS GUY INTO THE BACK? WE'LL GET YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO BE.
NOT A PROBLEM.
I DON'T LIKE THIS.

WHAT THE FUCK!

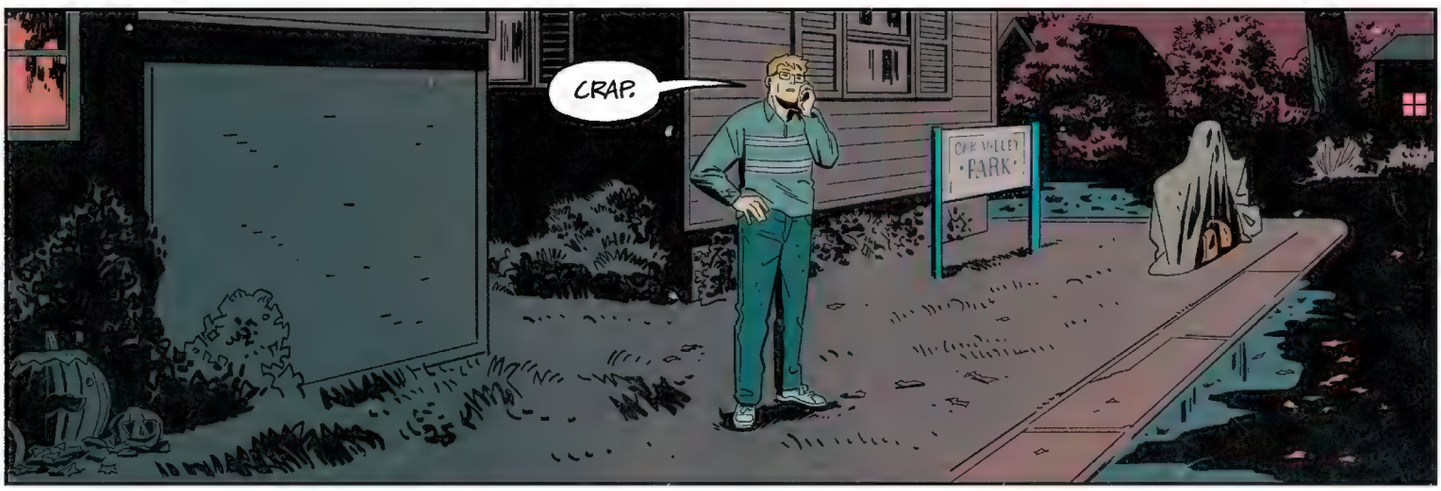
BEEP BEEP BEEP
COME ON!
HAWNNK!

FUCK!
HWNK
HWNNNNK

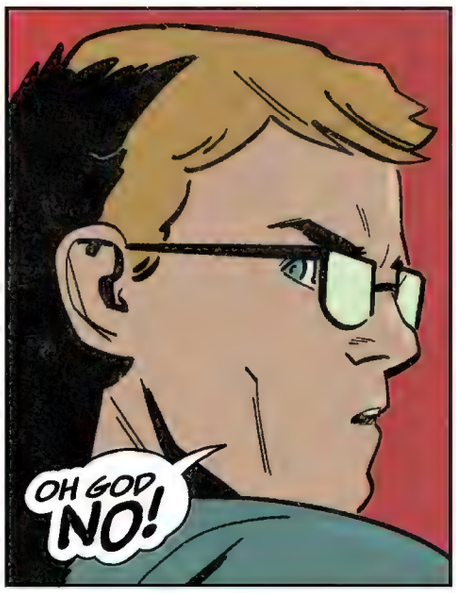
AGK!

Craig
No Signal
mute
keypad
speaker
add call
video call
contacts
end call

GODDAMNIT, CRAIG. WHERE ARE YOU?

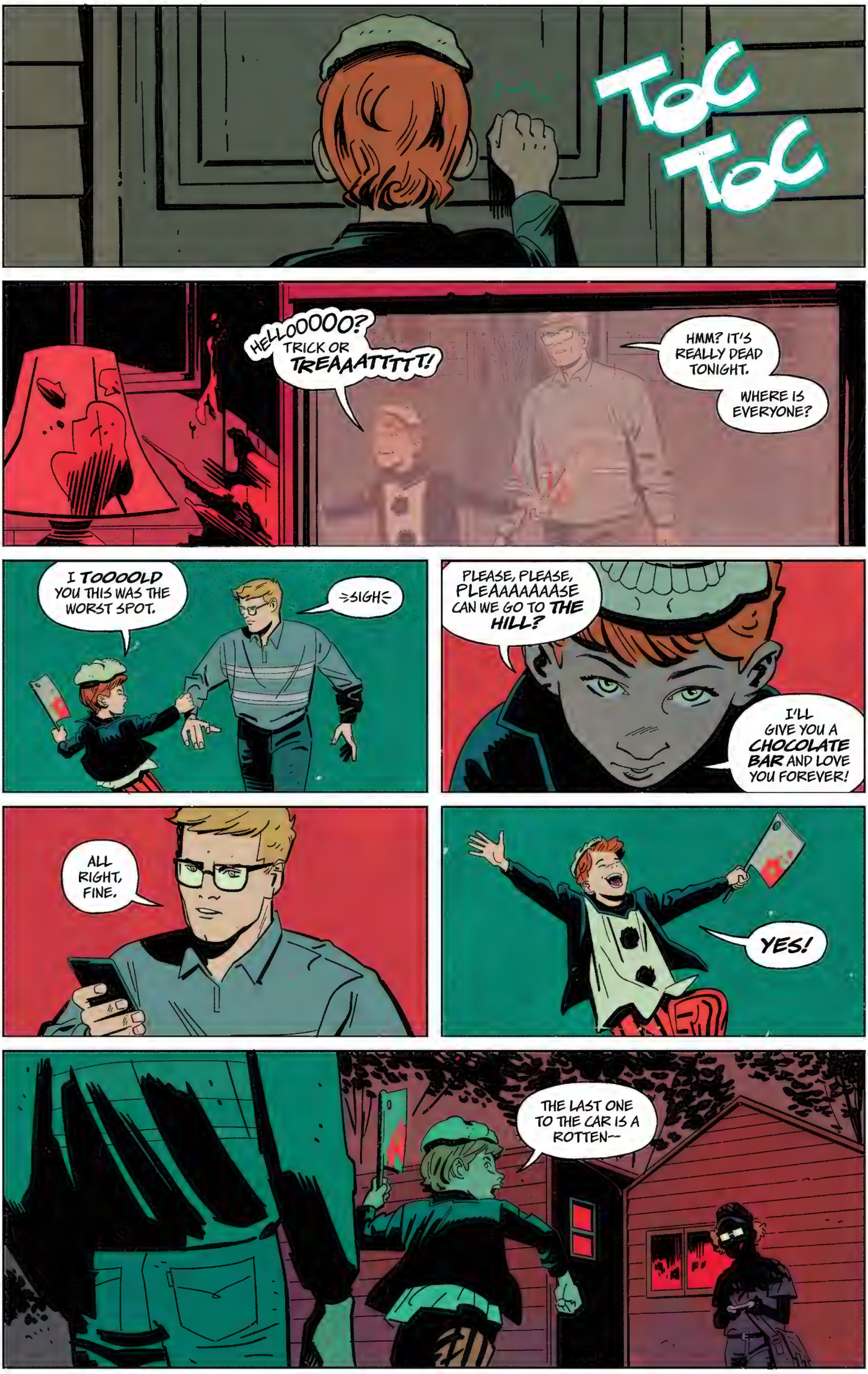

CRAP.
OAK VALLEY PARK

STILL NO SIGNAL. XAVI IS GOING TO KILL ME.


OH GOD NO!

IT'S THE HAPPYLAND SLASHER!

WOW, YOU LOOK AWESOME, DUDE.
I KNOW, RIGHT?!
LET'S GET SOME CANDY.

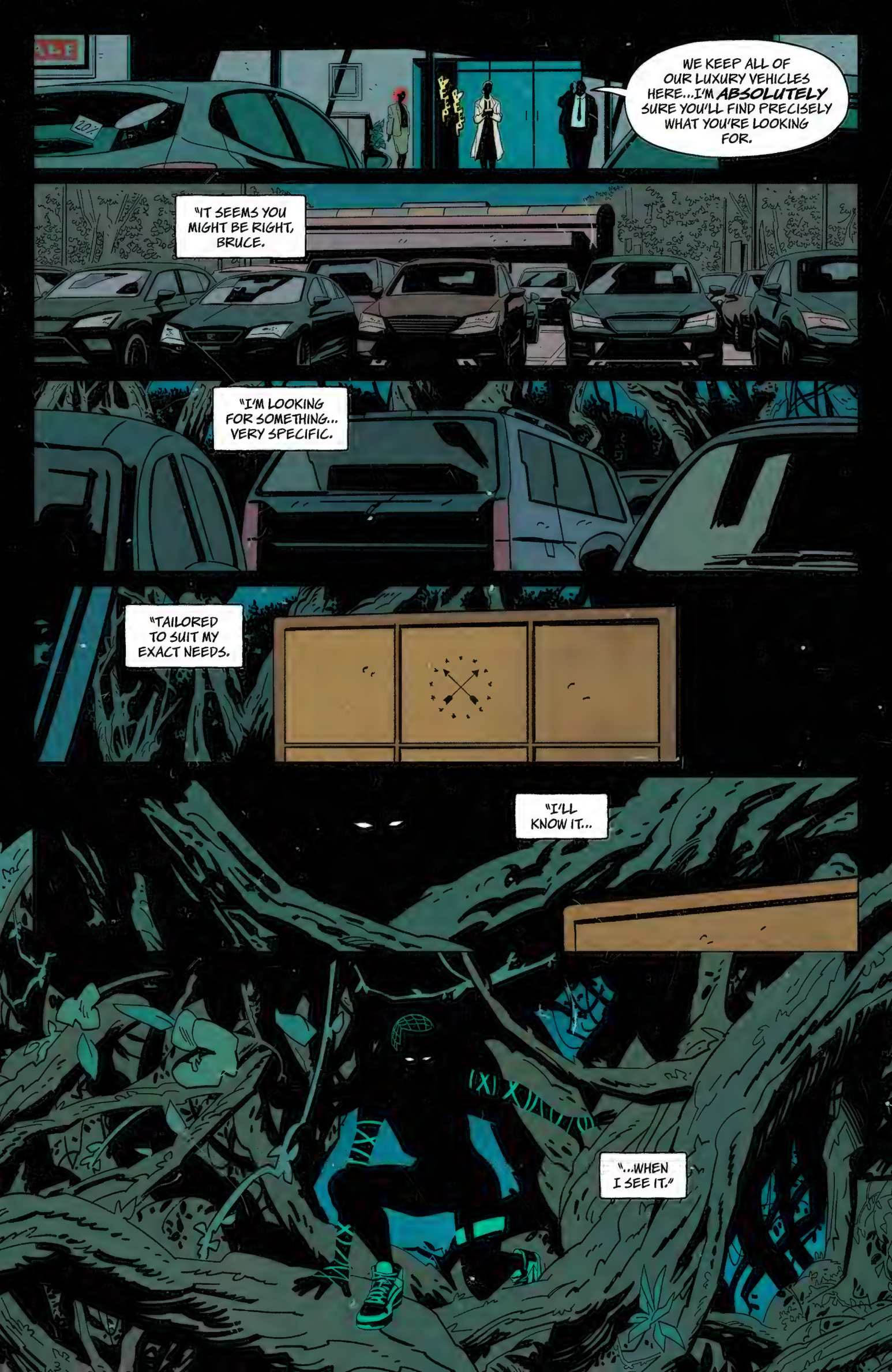

TOC TOC
HELLOOOOO? TRICK OR TREAAATTTTT!
HMM? IT'S REALLY DEAD TONIGHT.
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
I TOOOOLD YOU THIS WAS THE WORST SPOT.
=SIGH=
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEAAAAAAAAASE CAN WE GO TO THE HILL?
I'LL GIVE YOU A CHOCOLATE BAR AND LOVE YOU FOREVER!
ALL RIGHT, FINE.
YES!
THE LAST ONE TO THE CAR IS A ROTTEN--

WUMP
HEY!
COOL. WHAT GAME IS THIS?
IT'S A... IT'S STILL IN BETA.
HAPPYLAND MURDER IV: ULTIMATE KILL, EH?
THE 3D ONE.
THE BEST ONE.
TOTALLY.
BE CAREFUL, JASON.
YOU OKAY, KID?
FINE.
YOU SHOULD COME WITH US TO THE HILL!
THEY'VE GOT FULL CHOCOLATE BARS, I'M TALKING MILKY WAY, SNICKERS, TWIX.
THEY ARE LOADED!

WHOA THERE, WAIT A SECOND.
JASON, WE CAN'T TAKE YOUR NEW FRIEND WITHOUT TALKING TO THEIR PARENTS FIRST.
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE, KID. WHAT'S YOUR NAME? WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?
TODD... I'M TODD.
I'M HERE VISITING MY OLD-ASS AUNT.
SHE'S PASSED OUT ALREADY, BE REALLY PISSED IF I WAKE HER UP.
I DID NOT SIGN UP FOR THIS TONIGHT.
YOU BETTER BE HERE, CRAIG.

AUDREY! AUDREY, GET OVER HERE!
BIG BRUCE AUTO SALES
I SMELL A BIG FISH HERE, AUDREY. A HUGE FISH. DO YOU SMELL THAT, AUDREY?
YES, MR. NGUYEN. I SMELL THAT.
WELL?! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GO GET THE DOOR FOR HER!
HELLO, MA'AM.
WELCOME TO BIG BRUCE'S, WHERE YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR TOP PRIORITY.
I CERTAINLY HOPE SO.

AND, UM, LET ME INTRODUCE BRUCE HIMSELF.
HELLO, HELLO. I CAN TELL A WOMAN OF ELEGANCE WHEN I SEE ONE.
YOU'VE COME TO JUST THE RIGHT PLACE.
THAT IS YET TO BE SEEN.
OH, HAHA, YES. NO...I GUARANTEE IT.
BEEP
UM--
BEEP
IS THERE ANYTHING I COULD GET YOU, MA'AM? A COFFEE OR TEA, PERHAPS?
BEEP
AH, I SEE YOU'VE FOUND THE BACK LOT!
BEEP
BEEP


WE KEEP ALL OF OUR LUXURY VEHICLES HERE...I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE YOU'LL FIND PRECISELY WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
BEEP BEEP
"IT SEEMS YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT, BRUCE.
"I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING... VERY SPECIFIC.
"TAILORED TO SUIT MY EXACT NEEDS.
"I'LL KNOW IT...
"...WHEN I SEE IT."

SHNK
SHK
SHK
Shrrrrk
DAMN.
Shhhhhhk
ONE BODY AND THE BLADE'S SPENT.

ELEVEN SOULS TO REAP.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO WORK UNDER THESE CONDITIONS?

HUNGRY?

DON'T WORRY, MY SON, IT'S ALMOST OVER.
=SIGH= A GOOD KNIFE REALLY MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.
DING
HELLO, AREN'T YOU A PRETTY ONE?
THIS IS QUITE THE SCENE.
HELP, PLEASE... HELP ME.
JESUS, WHAT'VE YOU DONE TO THIS GUY?
DISGUSTING.
I DIDN'T HAVE MY TOOLS.
ADMIT IT, BRO.
YOU GOT NO STYLE.

DISAPPOINTING, REALLY.
HEATHEN!
KRAKK
AAKH!
HONESTLY...
I EXPECTED MORE.
SMAP

HEY BUD, YOU OK BACK THERE?
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. THE BAD GUY IS GONE.
YOU...
...YOU'RE WITH THEM, AREN'T YOU?
ME? NAW, MAN...
I'M AGAINST THEM.
DO...YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON? IS IT--IS IT MICROCHIPS... OR--
HA! SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YOU GOT A RIDE, BUD? I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL.

GET ME THE FUCK OUT OF HERE, AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT.

I THINK I'LL HAVE A GLASS AFTER ALL.

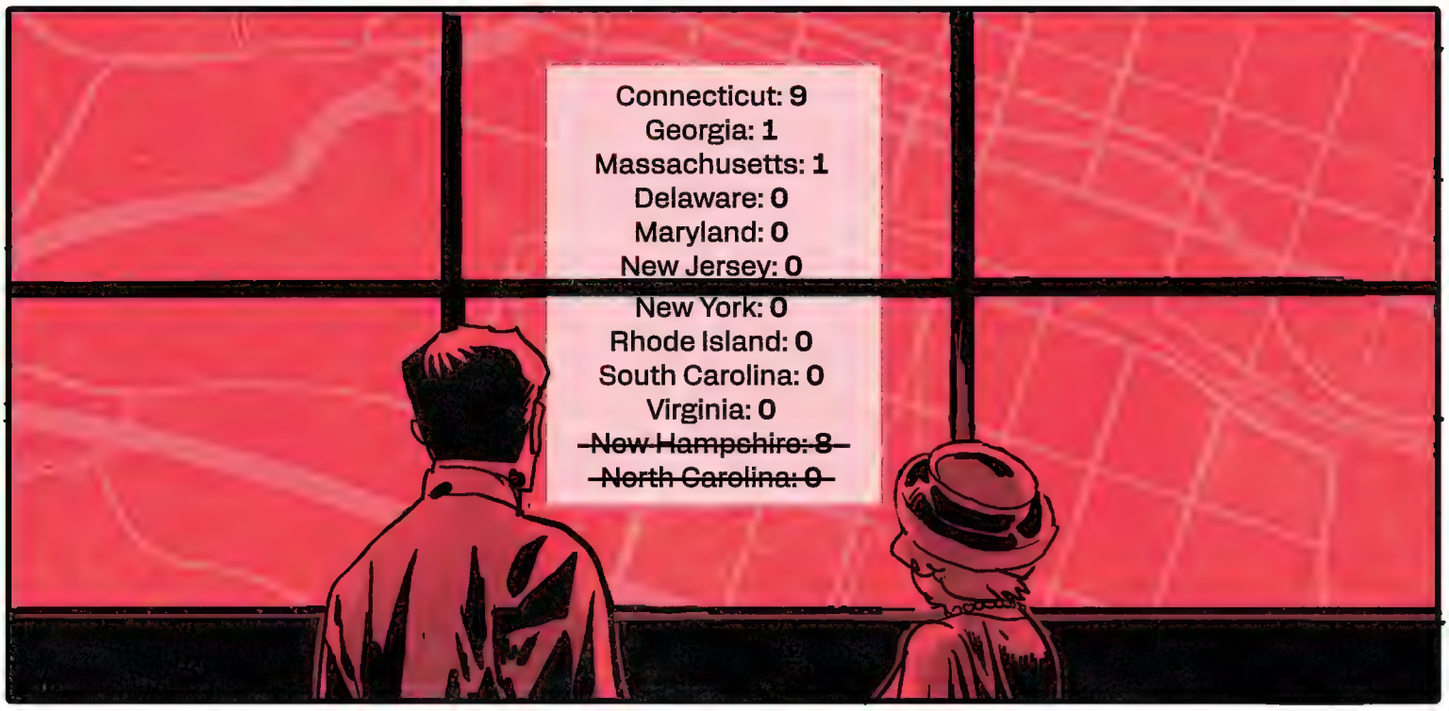
YOU KNOW...I DID TAKE A SIDE BET.
DID YOU, NOW?
YES. I TOOK IT WITH EACH OF THE FAMILIES, OTHER THAN YOU. WELL, IT'S NOT QUITE A SIDE BET, TO BE HONEST. MORE OF AN INCENTIVE.
AND A WAY TO MAKE THE GAME INTERESTING WITHOUT HAVING A PLAYER ON THE FIELD.
FIVE BILLION DOLLARS TO WHOEVER TAKES YOUR KILLER OUT.
THAT'S GENEROUS OF YOU.
I THOUGHT SO.
IT'S NICE. THEY'RE ALL IN PLAY NOW. THEY'RE FINDING THEIR LITTLE CACHES, GETTING THEIR WEAPONS IN HAND.
REMEMBER THAT WHICHEVER OF THEM SLITS YOUR KILLER'S THROAT, NO MATTER WHICH OF THESE FOOLS TAKES THE CREDIT, THAT IT WAS ME.
GOOD LUCK.

CHAPTER THREE

SOMETHING YOU ATE?
OR IS IT JUST THE THOUGHT OF MY FOX-MASKED PAL GUTTING YOUR TWIN SISTER WITH HER COOL-ASS SWORD?
I TOLD YOU TO GET AWAY FROM ME.
I WISH I COULD BE IN THE PLAYING FIELD. JUST FOR A SECOND, MIND YOU. I'M NOT FUCKING INSANE.
BUT I WANT TO BE THERE THE MINUTE SHE REALIZES WHO IS GOING TO KILL HER.
YOUR TWIN SISTER DIDN'T LIKE WHEN SHE GOT TURNED DOWN IN THE LAST GAME, DID SHE?
SO, SHE DECIDED TO SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROY THE LIFE OF ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PEOPLE ON EARTH.

FOX MASK KILLER DIDN'T EVEN BLINK WHEN I MADE THE OFFER. SHE COULDN'T FUCKING WAIT TO HUMILIATE THE LOT OF YOU.
"ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PEOPLE." PLEASE.
THEY ARE OUR TOYS. OUR ENTERTAINMENT. WE FATTEN THEM UP AND MAKE OUR BETS ON WHO WE THINK IS THE STRONGEST.
BUT THEY ARE SMALL, AND WE ARE NOT. YOU UNDERESTIMATE MY SISTER.
I FUCKING HOPE SO. I'D HATE FOR THE NIGHT TO GET BORING.
NOW, I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT ONE BIT.

MA'AM?
JUST LOOK AT THE STATE OF THEM. THE 13 FAMILIES, MAKING THEIR POWER PLAYS.
ALL WITH THE FOULEST EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR PRETTY LITTLE FACES! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HAVING A NICE TIME, AREN'T WE? IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A PARTY.
I AGREE, VIRGINIA. I THINK WE FORGET THAT.
WE CERTAINLY DO, YOUNG MAN. WHY GET ALL HUFFED UP AND BENT OUT OF SHAPE?
ALL FOR THE RIGHT TO GRAB THE STEERING WHEEL FOR A FEW YEARS?
I PLAY THE GAME RIGHT. THE MONEY'S IN THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE.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Georgia: 1
Massachusetts: 1
Delaware: 0
Maryland: 0
New Jersey: 0
New York: 0
Rhode Island: 0
South Carolina: 0
Virginia: 0
~~New Hampshire: 8~~
~~North Carolina: 0~~

AND I THINK WE'RE OFF TO THE RACES, DON'T YOU? WHERE'S MY BOY NOW?

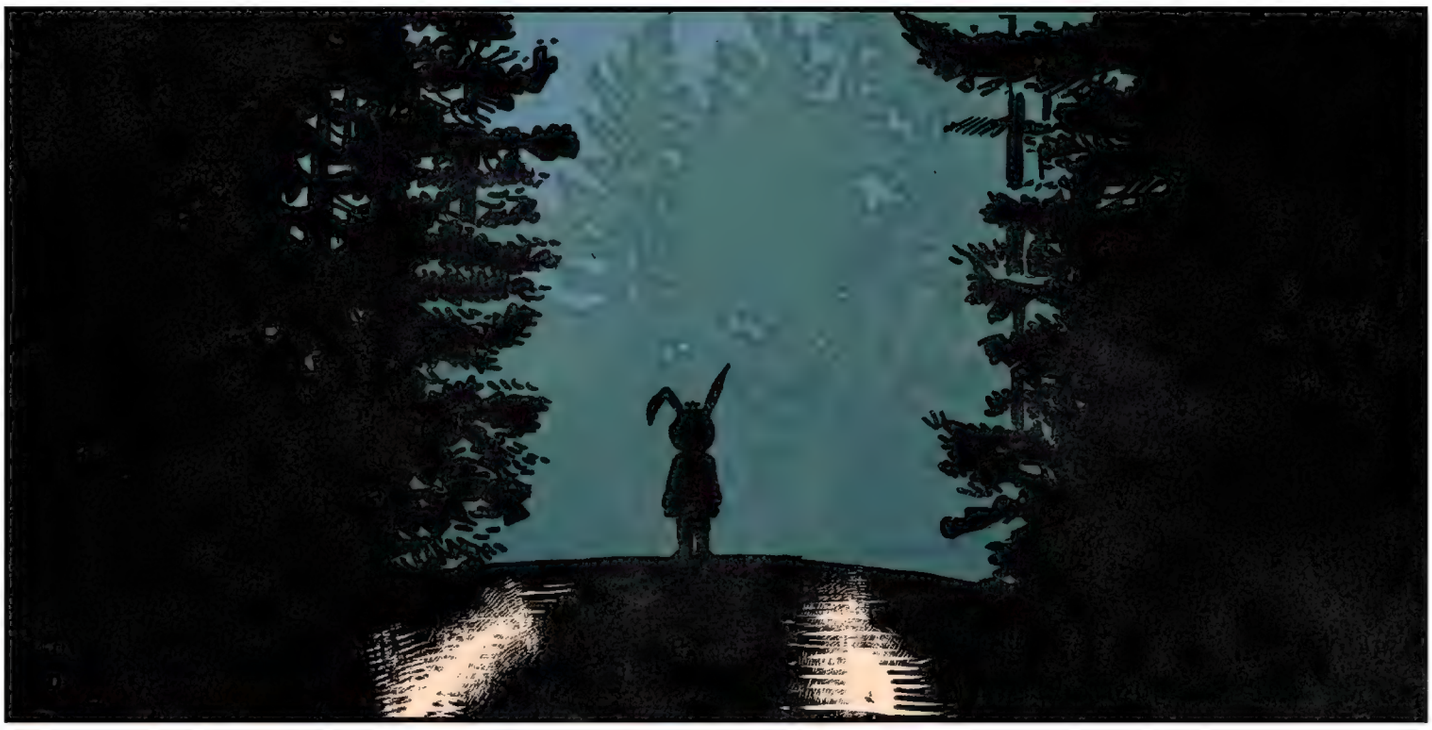
NURSE PETE IS ON HIS WAY TO THE HOSPITAL.

SEE? I TOLD YOU. THE PARTY'S JUST GETTING STARTED.
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN.

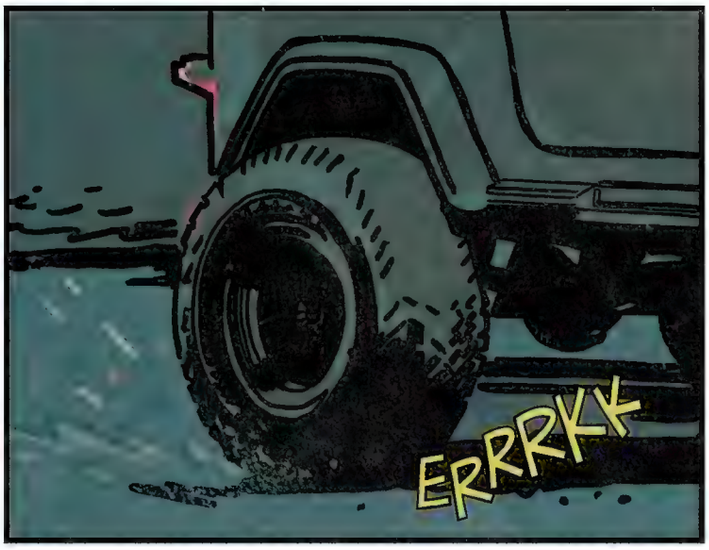
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THEY JUST LEFT THE BODY WITH YOU, PETE...
...THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE OFFICER FOR HAND-OFF.
UM, YES...IAN, RIGHT?
YEAH...WHAT D'YOU THINK, LAURA?
I THINK SOMETHING'S UP.
DISPATCH'S SAYING THE WI-FI AND PHONES ARE ALL DOWN. IT CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE.
SORRY YOUR FIRST DAY'S SO CRAZY. WHERE'D YOU SAY YOU MOVED FROM AGAIN?
OH! UM... VIRGINIA.
REALLY? WHAT PART? I HAVE TONS OF FAMILY IN VIRGINIA.
OH, AH-- AH...

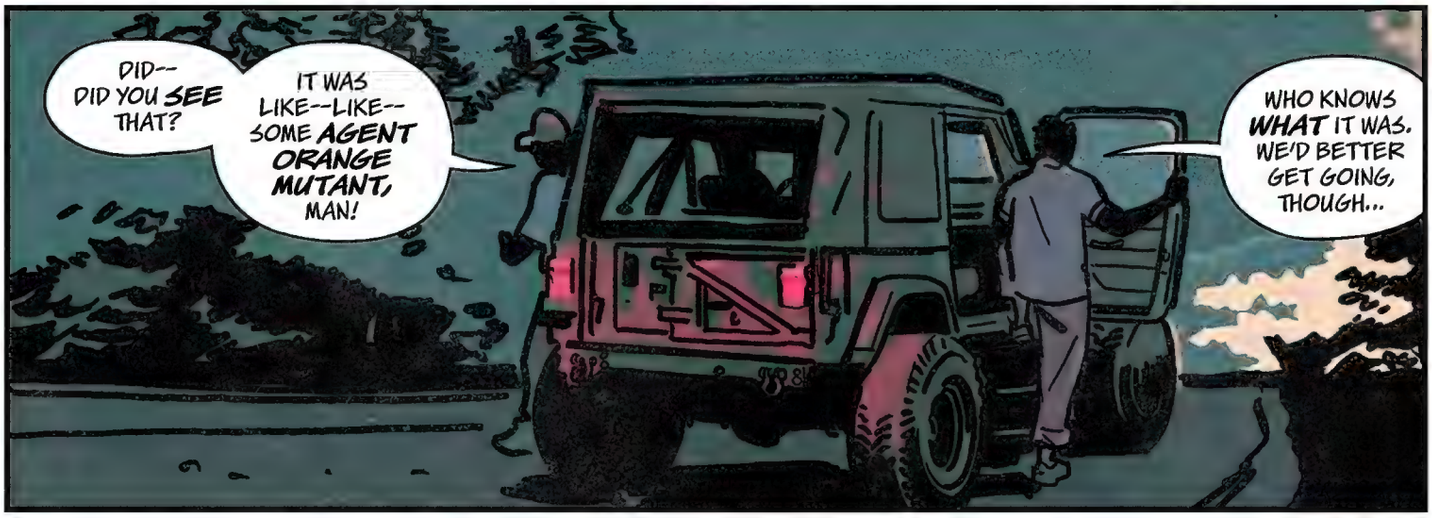
ACTUALLY, WE MIGHT HAVE TO PUT THE ICEBREAKERS ON PAUSE...
...WE'RE HERE.
CLAUDIA! PHONES BACK YET?
WHAT'S UP, IAN? NAH, IT LOOKS LIKE RECEPTION'S JUST AS DEAD OUT HERE.
GREAT. ME AND LAURA WERE JUST TELLING PETE HE PICKED A HELL OF A DAY TO START, RIGHT--
--PETE...?

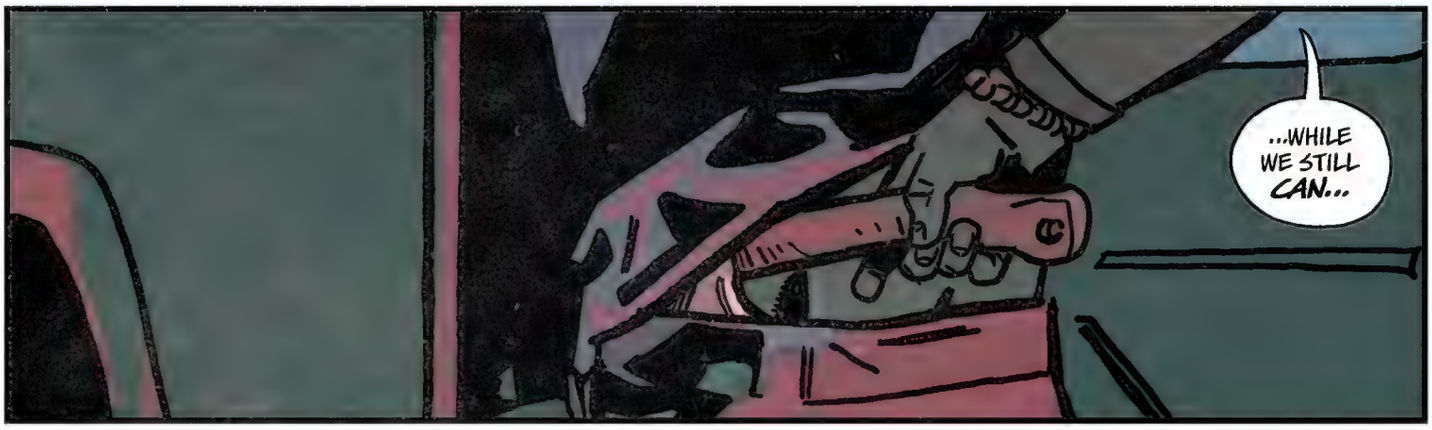
THAT'S WHAT--WHAT KILLED ROB BACK AT THE STATION? A SUPER SOLDIER?
YEAH...MIKE, RIGHT? THE CIA'S BEEN EXPERIMENTING AGENT ORANGE ON THEM SINCE--
SINCE THE '70s!
YEAH, MAN. BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE CIA. IT'S THE WHOLE--
SECRET GOVERNMENT...
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
WAIT--
I'M RIGHT?
GOD, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GET IT.
I MEAN, IF IT REALLY WAS THEM, WE COULD PROBABLY FIND OUT AT THE PERIMETER OF THE TOWN. THEY'D HAVE MEN IN BLACK STATIONED ALL OVER, IF WE KNEW HOW TO GET THERE...
FUCK, BROTHER! I'LL TAKE US THERE RIGHT NOW!
DAMN, YOU'RE THINKING, MAN.
ME? COME ON...
I'M JUST ANOTHER PRETTY BOY TRYING TO GET BY.
...I'M ACTUALLY RIGHT...



WHAT THE FUCK?!?


ERRRKK


DID-- DID YOU SEE THAT?
IT WAS LIKE--LIKE-- SOME AGENT ORANGE MUTANT, MAN!
WHO KNOWS WHAT IT WAS. WE'D BETTER GET GOING, THOUGH...


...WHILE WE STILL CAN...

WHAT'RE YOU THINKING?
Laura,
Get in your ambulance and drive as far away from Oak Valley as you can and don't look back. For once in your life, I need you to put yourself first. ~~Leave before~~ Sunset.
I'm sorry. Uncle Scott.
THAT THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ALL THE COPS AND THE WI-FI DISAPPEARING?
PROBABLY NOT, BUT...TODAY'S JUST BEEN SO **WEIRD.**
I THOUGHT YOUR UNCLE STOPPED NAGGING YOU ABOUT MOVING.
SO DID I. WE HAD THIS WHOLE TALK--
"THE EMT GIG WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO KEEP YOU BUSY AFTER YOUR DAD DIED. YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO **NOT** APPLY TO MED SCHOOL--"
YOU WANTED TO GO TO MED SCHOOL?
DAD WANTED ME TO.
IT'S JUST-- WE'VE BEEN PARTNERS FOR THREE YEARS, AND YOU'VE **NEVER** MENTIONED IT.
GUESS I DIDN'T REALLY WANT IT.
...
IT'S CRAZY WE DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER GROWING UP, HUH?
BUT I GUESS YOU WERE WITH THE **OVER-ACHIEVERS.** ALWAYS GONNA **MAKE** SOMETHING OF YOURSELVES.
WHO WERE YOU WITH?

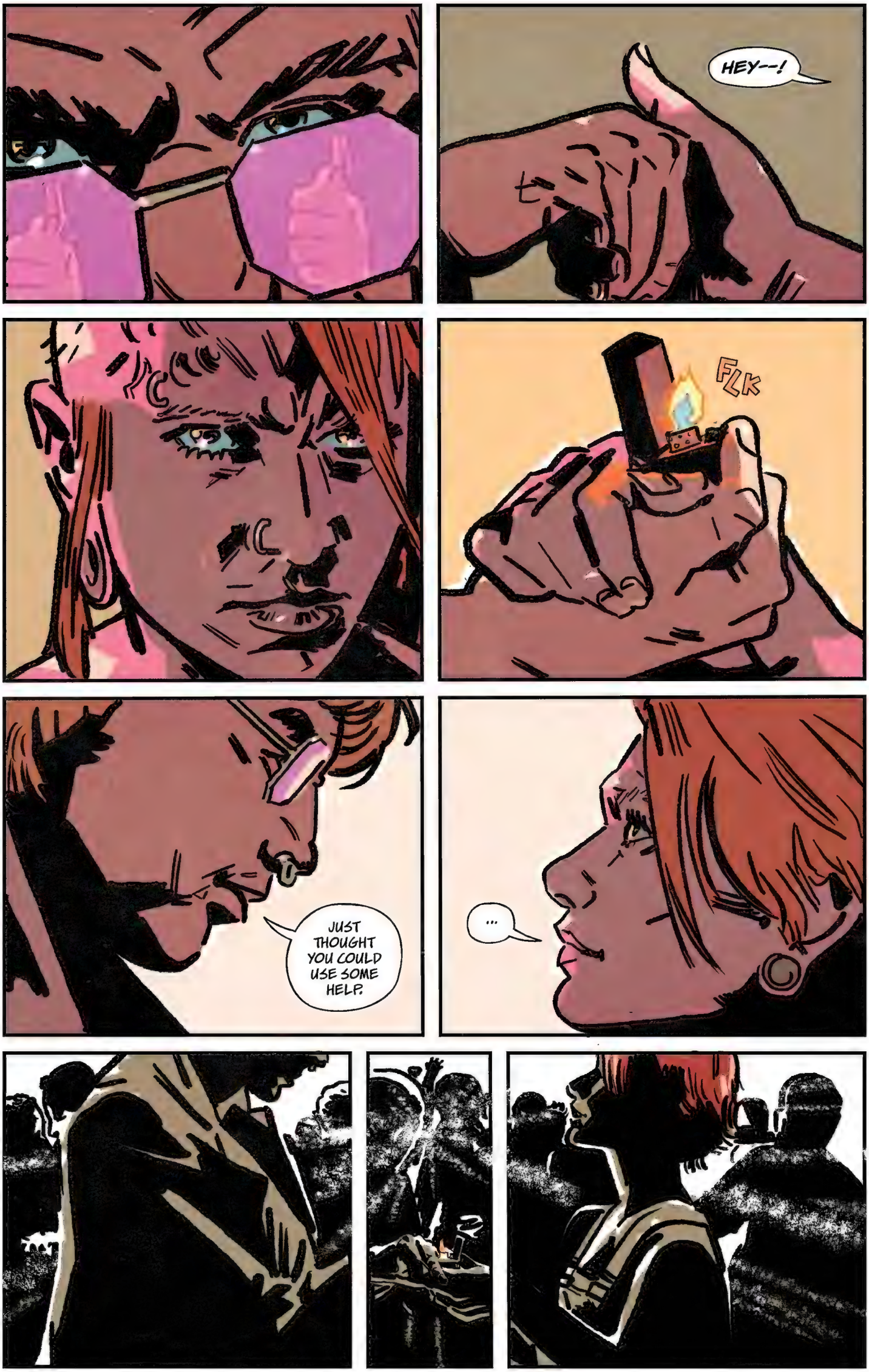
FUCK-UPS FOR THE WIN, BAY-BEE...!
BUT ANYWAY--I'M PRETTY SURE YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE APPLYING TO ENGINEERING SCHOOL.
KINDA... I MISSED THE DEADLINE.
YOU? YOU'RE MS. ON-TOP-OF-EVERYTHING.
HEY, WE'RE PRETTY BUSY, YOU KNOW.
MAYBE I'M FINE WITH LIFE RIGHT NOW, OKAY? I MEAN, WHO KNOWS WHY WE DO ANYTHING?
HEY, LAURA--
WHO ARE YOU?
OH, JESUS. WHAT IS THIS?
MY THERAPIST WAS TELLING ME ABOUT VIOLA DAVIS'S MEMOIR...
...I GUESS WILL SMITH ASKED HER ONCE, "WHO ARE YOU?"
AND SHE'S LIKE, "VIOLA DAVIS."
AND HE'S LIKE, "NO--WHO ARE YOU?"
'CUZ HE SAYS HE'LL ALWAYS BE THAT FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD WHOSE GIRLFRIEND BROKE UP WITH HIM. AND VIOLA DAVIS REALIZES, OH, SHE'LL ALWAYS BE THAT LITTLE GIRL RACIST BULLIES CHASED HOME FROM SCHOOL.
THAT PAIN. AT THAT DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE, WHEN YOU'RE AT YOUR MOST VULNERABLE. IT HAPPENS, AND THEN THE CONCRETE SETTLES, AND YOU'RE ALWAYS THAT PERSON.
LIKE... ME?

I'M THE BOY WHO HURTS THE PEOPLE HE LOVES.
IAN... NO.
YOU'RE THE MOST GENEROUS PERSON I--
BLAH BLAH.
MY DAD USED TO HIT MY MOM. SHE'D ASK ME TO MAKE HIM STOP. BUT I WAS A KID. AND...
WELL, THAT'S ALL STILL IN THERE.
AND MAYBE THAT'S WHY I WORK WHERE I WORK. WHY I WATCH EVERY DUMB SUPERHERO MOVIE. 'CUZ I'M TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR SOMETHING.
OR... MAYBE NOT.
MY THERAPIST SAYS IT'S A PLACE TO START. TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO. AND MAYBE...WHY YOU DON'T DO WHAT YOU SHOULD.
ALL OF WHICH TO SAY... HEY, LAURA...
WHO ARE YOU?

CRAIG! CRAIG!!
COME ON--IT'S XAVI!
BANG BANG BANG
CRAIG!!
I SWEAR, IF YOU'RE JUST IN THE BACK PLAYING CALL OF--

OH MY--
OH MY--
OWFFF
AAAGGHH!!
OWF
OWF
OWF
OH, IT'S JUST--YOU'RE JUST...
OWFFF
I'LL GO GET HELP, OK?
JUST-- JUST STAY THERE, AND...
I'M SORRY... I WASN'T GOING TO...
IT'S JUST SNNPH PEOPLE'RE GETTING SHOT-- AND SNNPH AND CRAIG'S GONE...
WAIT, CRAIG... HE SAID HE HAD BAD NEWS ABOUT THE PARTY...
MAYBE HE WENT TO THE SHOW TO FIND ME?
HEY, BOY. HEY.
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT, OK?
IT'S GONNA BE OK. I JUST-- I GOTTA GET...

"...TO THE NOLIFE SHOW."
I HAVE TO ADMIT. I'M NOT USUALLY A DANCE FLOOR GUY. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT A GIRL IN OVERALLS...
WHAT?
FLK
HEH.
YOU ANTSY FOR A SMOKE? LET'S GO OUTSIDE. GET AWAY FROM THE NOISE.
WHAT?
FLK
I SAID, IT'S NOISY! LET'S SMOKE OUTSIDE!
WHAT?
FLK


HEY--!
FLK
JUST THOUGHT YOU COULD USE SOME HELP.
...

YOU KNOW, IAN--I ACTUALLY APPRECIATE YOU ALWAYS CHECKING IF MY SHIT'S STRAIGHT.
YOU REMIND ME OF MY DAD.
THAT BETTER BE A GOOD THING, 'CUZ YOU KNOW I'LL BE BUGGING YOU ABOUT IT AGAIN NEXT WEEK, RIGHT?
I'M COUNTING ON--
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
AW, SHIT.
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE
IT'S COMING FROM OVER HERE.
WAIT--

OVER HERE, TOO.
WHAT--?
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
HOLY SHIT.
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
CLAUDIA! OH MY--
NURSE... WITH--WITH YOU...
WHO...?
PETE?
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
IAN... DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE WENT? I MEAN--

"WHERE THE HELL IS NURSE PETE, ANYWAY?"
WAAAAAAA!!!

COME ON. BACK ALLEY'S THIS WAY.
WHAT?!
YEAH, THAT'S TOTALLY NOT GETTING OLD.
SEE? AT LEAST NOW WE CAN HEAR--
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP

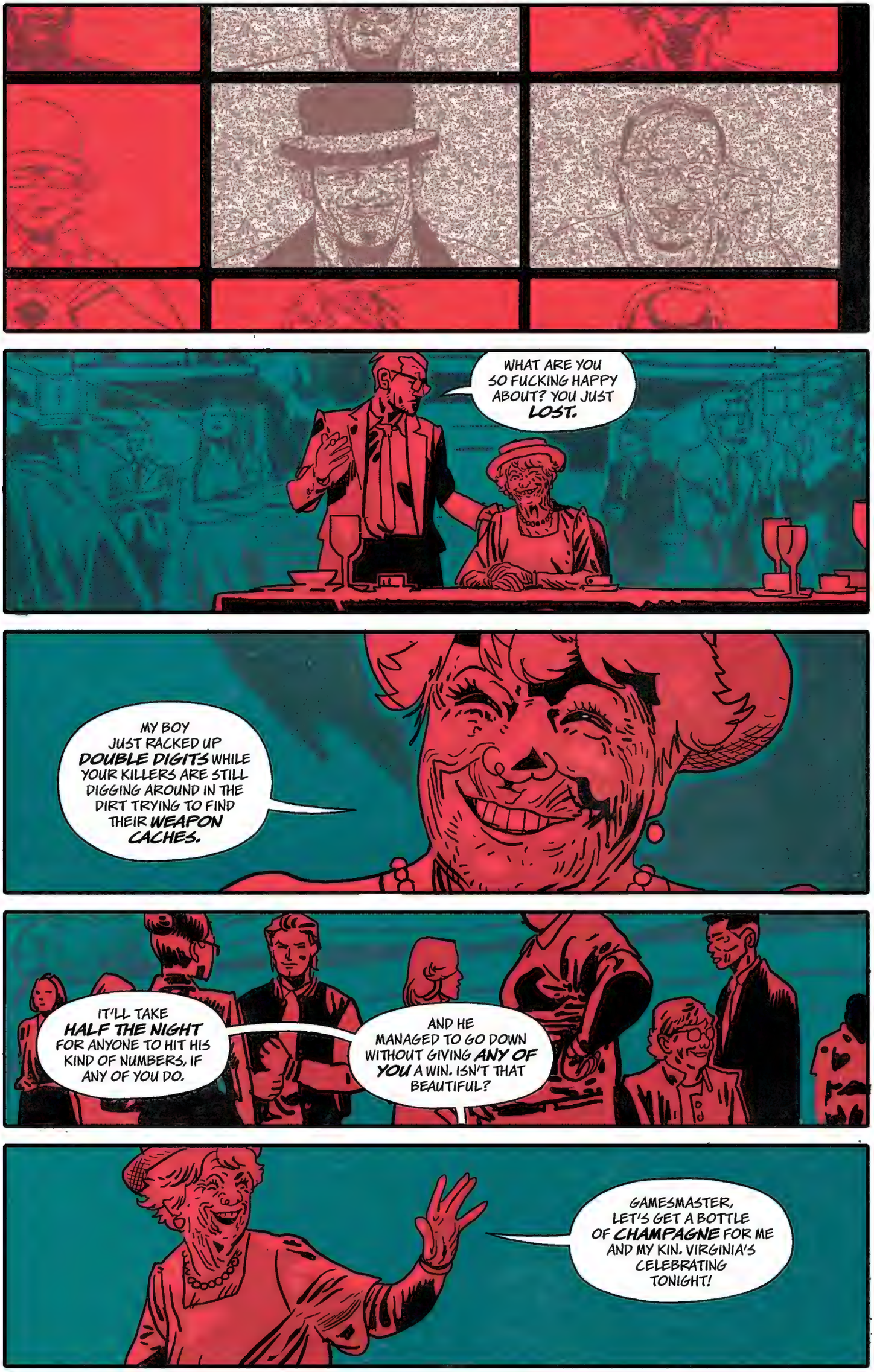
...OK, WELL, JUDGING FROM THE LAST FLATLINE, THE UNDER-CONSTRUCTION WING'S THE ONLY PLACE PETE COULD'VE RUN TO.
SO WE'RE CORNERING HIM?
WHO ELSE? THE COPS HAVE VANISHED!
BUT WHY WOULD NURSE PETE HURT ANYBODY? THAT'S--
...HELP...
...PLEASE... I...
...TRIED...TRIED STOPPING...
OH MY GOD.
SHIT. YOU WERE RIGHT. IT WASN'T HIM!
QUICK! BEFORE HE BLEEDS OUT--

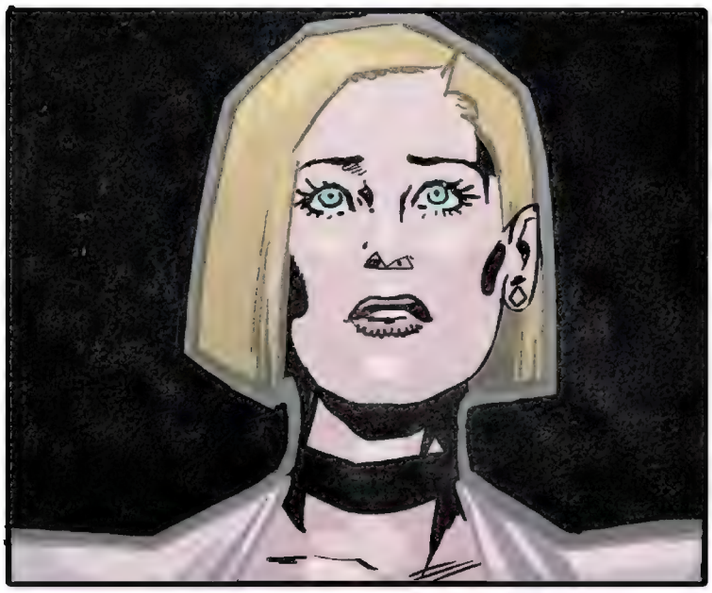
OH.
WHOLE BLOOD
OH NO...
THE BLOOD PACKS! HE USED THEM TO COVER HIMSELF WITH--
IAN!!
HEHEHEHEHEHE...
OOOOFFF!
GET AWAY FROM HER!
HEE HEE... LOOK AT YOU...
DIDN'T FALL FOR MY LITTLE TRICK...

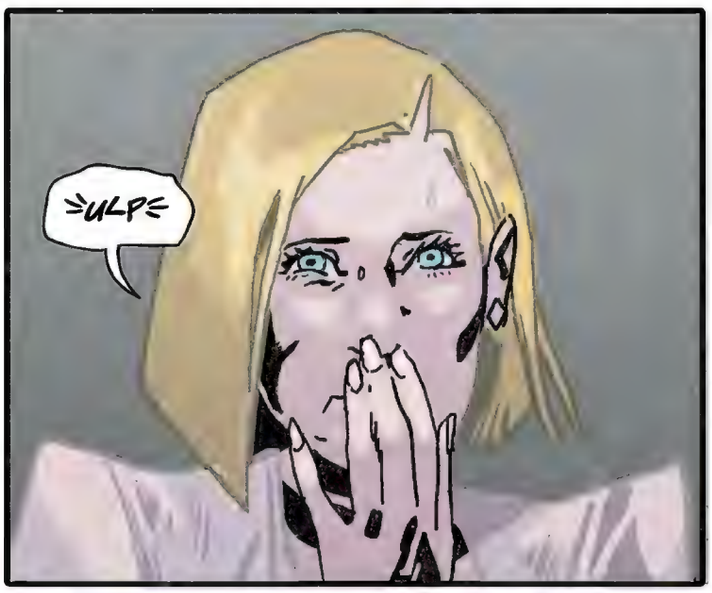
AREN'T YOU THE SMARTIE?!
LAURA! GET UP! GET OUT OF--!
SQRRTTT
AAAAAAAA!!!
HSSSSS
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
AK AK AK
GET-- GET THE HELL AWAY FROM--

ARE YOU A SMARTIE?
NO!!
ARE YOU?
ARE YOU A...
A...
WHAT...?
...LAU...RA...
OH--OH MY GOD...

BEEPBEEPBEEPBEEPBEEPBEEPBEEPBEEPBEE
SO.
YEAH, SO...
IAN...NO, PLEASE...
...UNCLE... RIGHT...
...GET...
...OUTTTTT...
...THIS IS GONNA BE FUN.


WHAT ARE YOU SO FUCKING HAPPY ABOUT? YOU JUST LOST.
MY BOY JUST RACKED UP DOUBLE DIGITS WHILE YOUR KILLERS ARE STILL DIGGING AROUND IN THE DIRT TRYING TO FIND THEIR WEAPON CACHES.
IT'LL TAKE HALF THE NIGHT FOR ANYONE TO HIT HIS KIND OF NUMBERS, IF ANY OF YOU DO.
AND HE MANAGED TO GO DOWN WITHOUT GIVING ANY OF YOU A WIN. ISN'T THAT BEAUTIFUL?
GAMESMASTER, LET'S GET A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE FOR ME AND MY KIN. VIRGINIA'S CELEBRATING TONIGHT!

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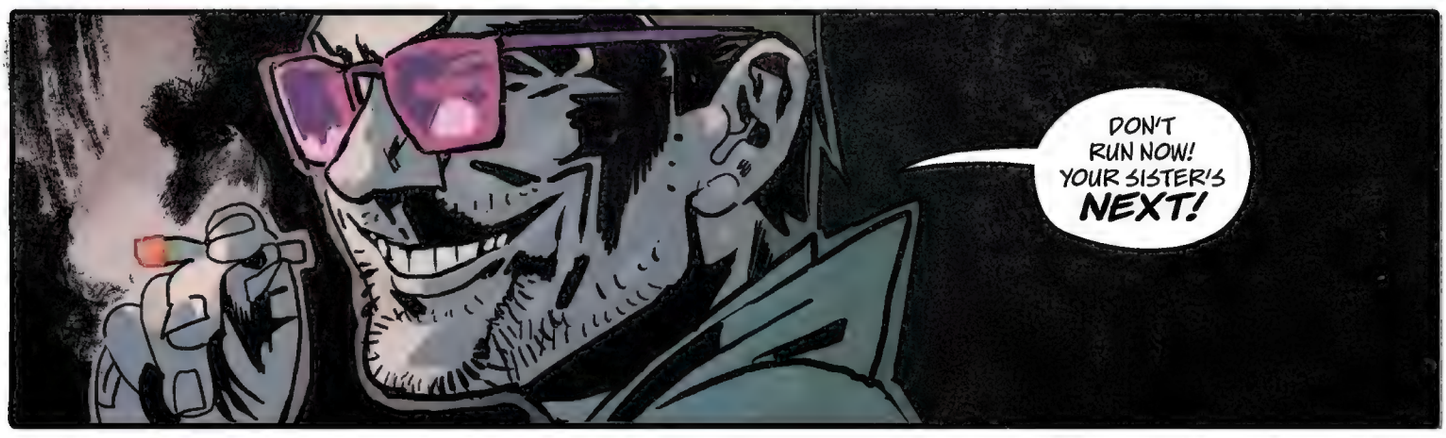
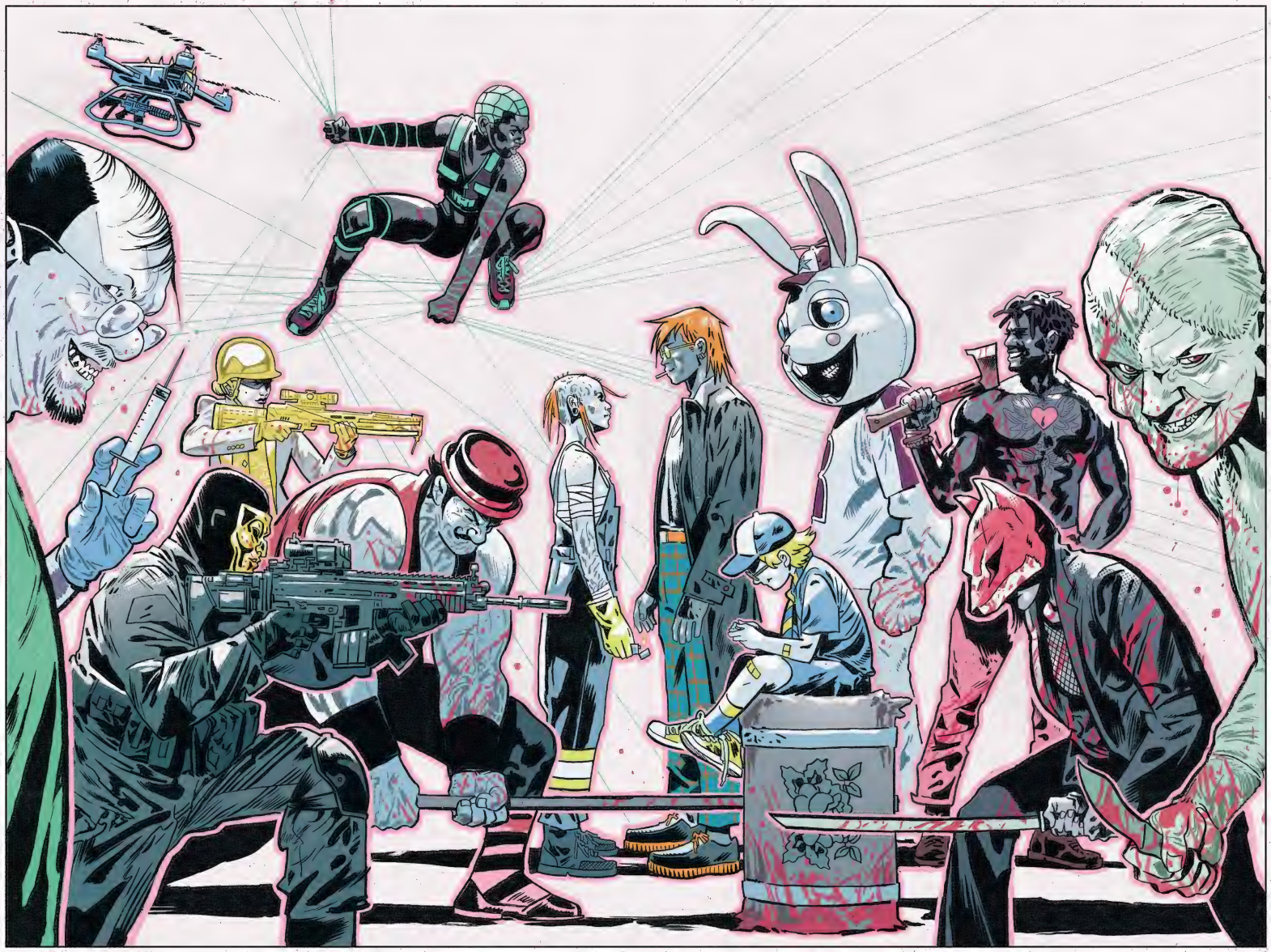
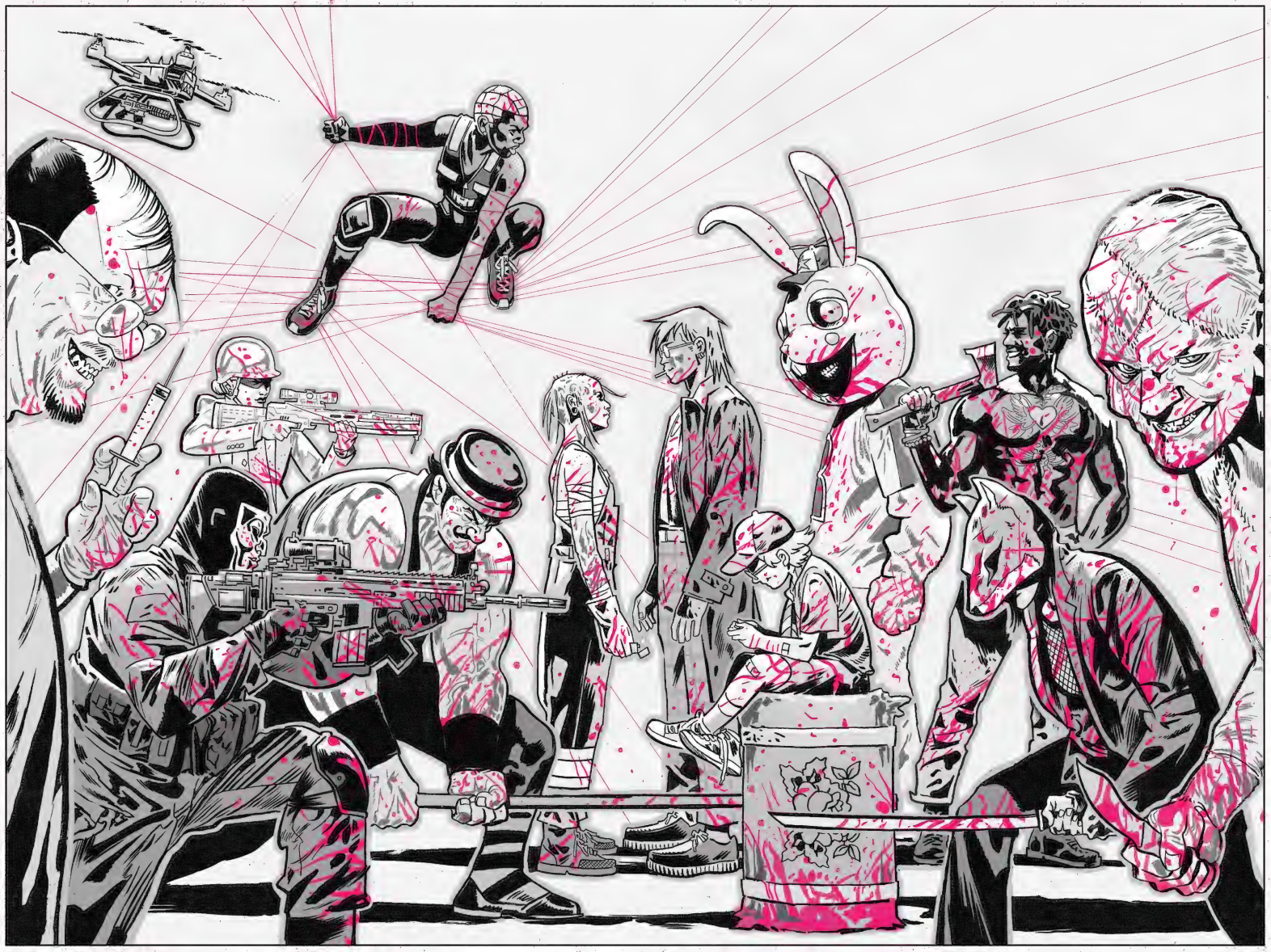

DON'T RUN NOW! YOUR SISTER'S NEXT!

TO BE CONTINUED

Exquisite Corpses
OAK VALLEY, ME
2025 COMPETITION
LONE GUNMAN
LONE GUNMAN
Lady Carolina
Lady Carolina
LAYLA BLAZE
LAYLA BLAZE
Pretty Boy
Pretty Boy
Rascal Randy
Rascal Randy
G4M3R_KID +CALVIN
G4M3R_KID +CALVIN
FOX MASK KILLER
RECLUSE
SLAYER
LAST KILLER STANDING



Michael Walsh



Michael Walsh

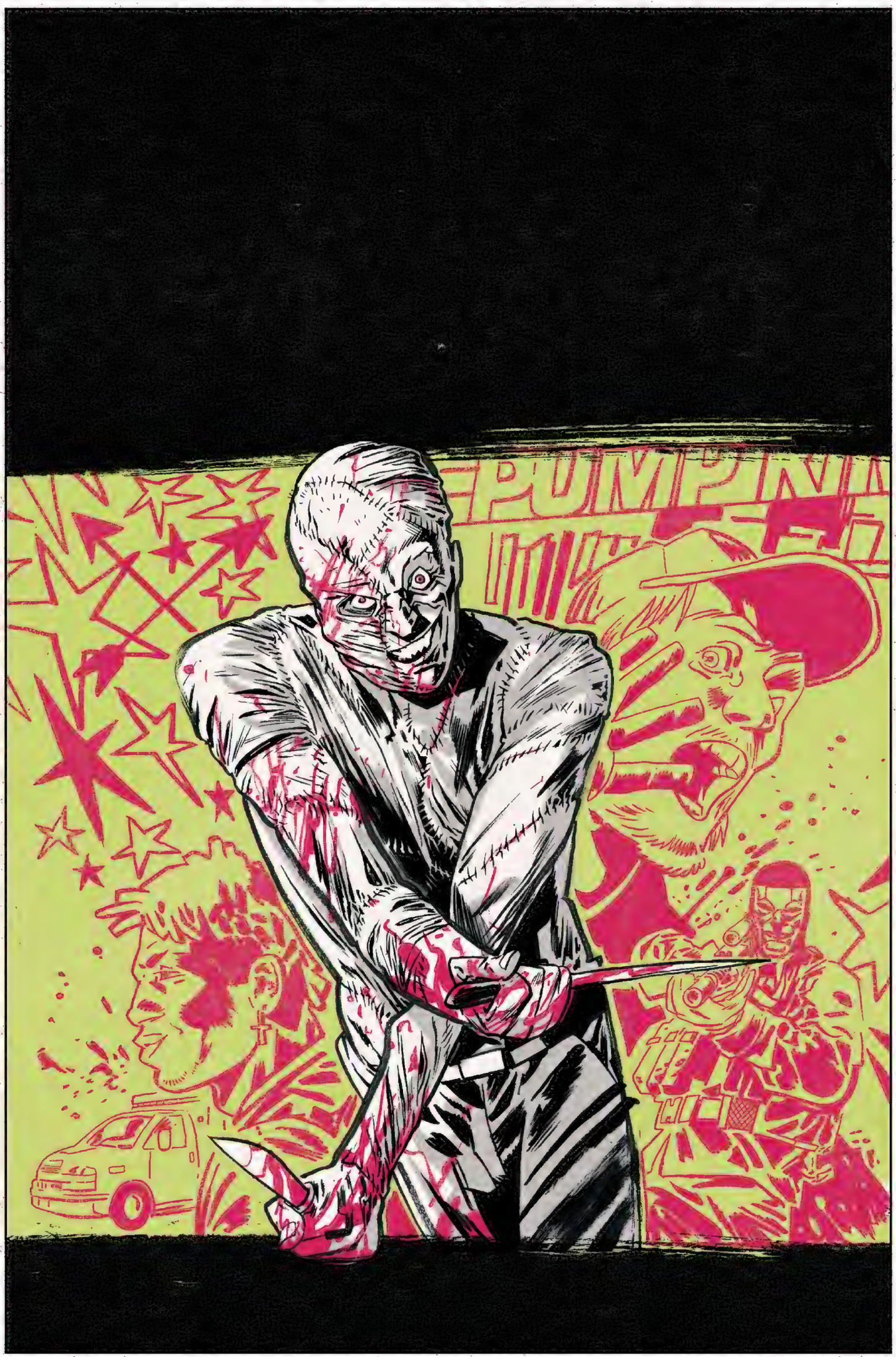
James Stokoe

Jenny Frison

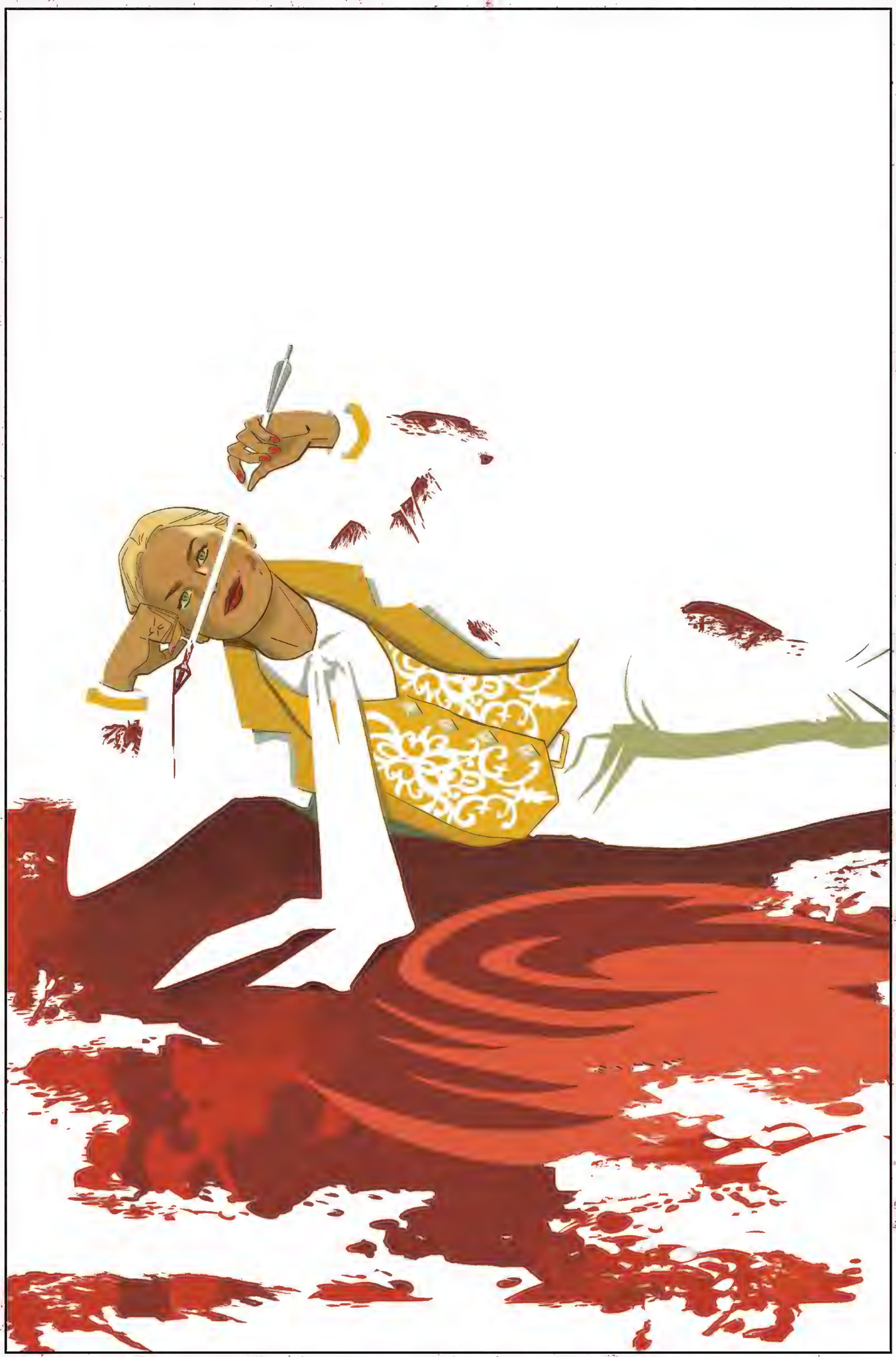
Alex Eckman-Lawn

Nimit Malavia

Jae Lee & June Chung



Michael Walsh

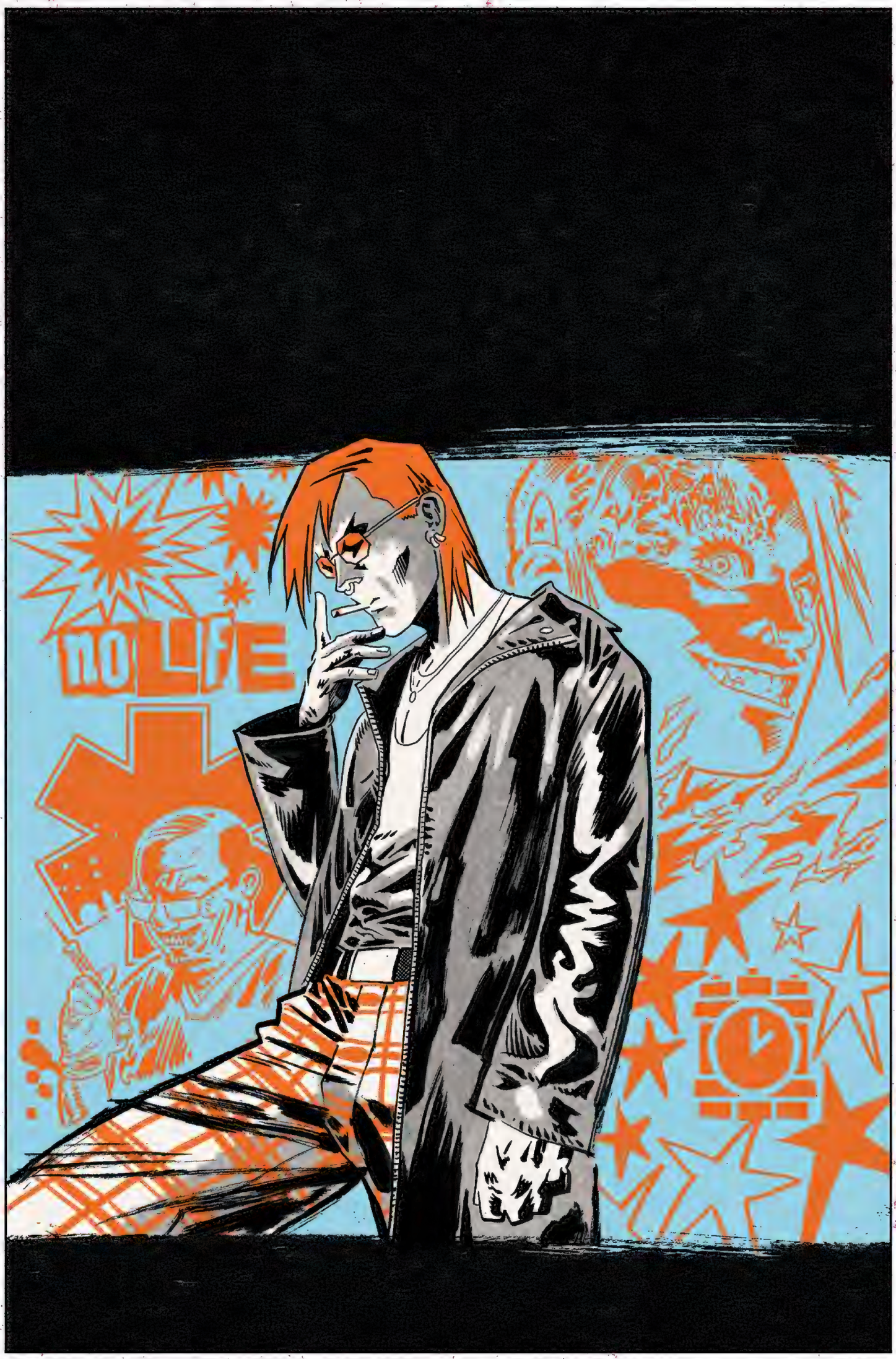


Marianna Ignazzi

Tula Lotay

Riley Rossmo

Martin Simmonds



Michael Walsh

Valentine De Landro

Tyler Crook

Ricardo Lopez Ortiz

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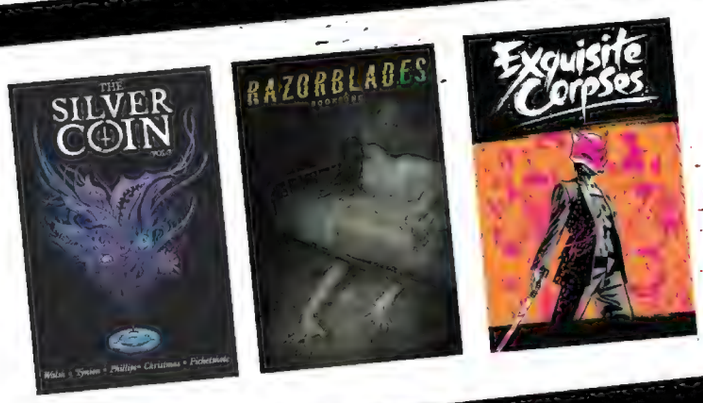
JAMES TYNION IV

OUT NOW

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRUTH
VOLUME 01: THE END OF THE WORLD
VOLUME 02: THE CITY UPON A HILL
VOLUME 03: FREE COUNTRY
VOLUME 04: THE MINISTRY OF LIES
VOLUME 05: WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU



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HAPPY HUNTING!

JAMES TYNION IV is an Eisner Award-winning, *New York Times*-bestselling writer and publisher of comic books. He is best known for co-creating hit horror comics series like *Something is Killing the Children*, *The Nice House on the Lake*, *The Department of Truth*, and *W0rldTr33*. He is also the writer of Young Adult adventure series, like 2022 GLAAD Media Award-nominated *Wynd*, and the 2017 GLAAD Media Award-winning *The Woods*. He spent ten years writing various Batman titles at DC Comics, where he co-created exciting new characters like Punchline and Ghost-Maker. He lives and works in Brooklyn.

MICHAEL WALSH is an Eisner Award-winning artist, writer, and producer primarily working in the comic book industry. He is best known as the creator, writer, and artist of the Eisner-nominated horror comic book series *The Silver Coin*, as well as the writer and artist of *Universal Monsters: Frankenstein*. With over ten years of professional comic book credits, he has worked on pop icons ranging from Spider-Man and Superman to Star Wars and The X-Files. His creator-owned book *Comeback* was optioned for a feature film by Skybound Entertainment. In 2025, Michael and James Tynion IV released the creator-owned comic book *Exquisite Corpses* to massive critical and commercial success. Michael is currently developing a tabletop card game based on the hit comic.

PORNSAK PICHETSHOTE is a Thai-American award-winning writer of comics and TV. He began his career as a rising star editor at DC's Vertigo imprint before overseeing DC Entertainment's TV department, helping spearhead what would become the CW's Arrowverse of shows. As a comics writer, his work includes the books *Infidel*, which was selected for NPR's 100 Favorite Horror Stories of all Time, the Eisner- and Harvey-winning *The Good Asian*, *Dead Boy Detectives*, and *Man's Best*. He also wrote and curated *The Horizon Experiment* anthology. As a TV writer, he's worked on *Marvel's Cloak & Dagger*, *Light as a Feather*, and *Two Sentence Horror Stories*. Most recently, he is one of the writers on the James Tynion IV & Michael Walsh-led Image series *Exquisite Corpses*.

MARIANNA IGNAZZI is a comic book artist based in Rome. She earned a degree in Art History from Sapienza University of Rome while attending the Roman School of Comics, where she now teaches inking and life drawing. Marianna has worked with both Italian and American publishers, including BOOM! Studios, Skybound, Mad Cave Studios, SYZYGY Publishing, DC Comics, Tiny Onion, and DSTLRY.

VALENTINE DE LANDRO is a Canadian comic book artist, illustrator, and designer. His credits include titles from Marvel, DC Comics, IDW, Valiant, and Dark Horse. He is the co-creator of *Bitch Planet* with Kelly Sue DeConnick.

JORDIE BELLAIRE is an Eisner Award-winning colorist best known for her work on *The Nice House on the Lake*, *Batman*, *Vision*, and *Pretty Deadly*. She lives in Portland, Oregon, with her husband. You can find her hiking in the woods behind your house with a sandwich in one hand and a beer in the other.

BECCA CAREY is an Eisner Award-nominated letterer as well as a graphic designer, currently working on *Exquisite Corpses*, *Absolute Wonder Woman*, *Red Hood*, *Radiant Black*, *Rogue Sun*, *Golden Rage*, and some soon-to-be-announced really fun projects. She loves her cute dog, her cute husband, reading fairy books, and sugary tea.

HAPPY HUNTING

Every five years on Halloween, the wealthiest families in America play a game. Twelve of the deadliest people in the world are dropped into a small town with just one goal: last killer standing wins. For the citizens of Oak Valley, Maine – this year's unlucky arena – the goal is much simpler. They must survive the night.

Experience a comics event like no other from the minds of JAMES TYNION IV (*Something is Killing the Children*, *The Department of Truth*) & MICHAEL WALSH (*The Silver Coin*, *Universal Monsters: Frankenstein*), as they lead a group of the most exciting voices in the industry.

In this blood-soaked first volume, James & Michael are joined by PORNSAK PICHETSHOTE (*The Good Asian*), MARIANNA IGNAZZI (*Catwoman*), VALENTINE DE LANDRO (*Bitch Planet*), JORDIE BELLAIRE (*wOrldtr33*), and BECCA CAREY (*Absolute Wonder Woman*) to collaborate & compete to determine who wins... and who dies.

COLLECTS EXQUISITE CORPSES #1-3

"Every now and then there's a piece of horror fiction that feels so real, so prescient, so about-to-oh-my-****ing-god-happen-in-real-life, that you hope the creators are completely full of ****. I have read *Exquisite Corpses*. I hope James Tynion IV and Michael Walsh are completely full of ****."

–PATTON OSWALT (MINOR THREATS)

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VOLUME 1

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